



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



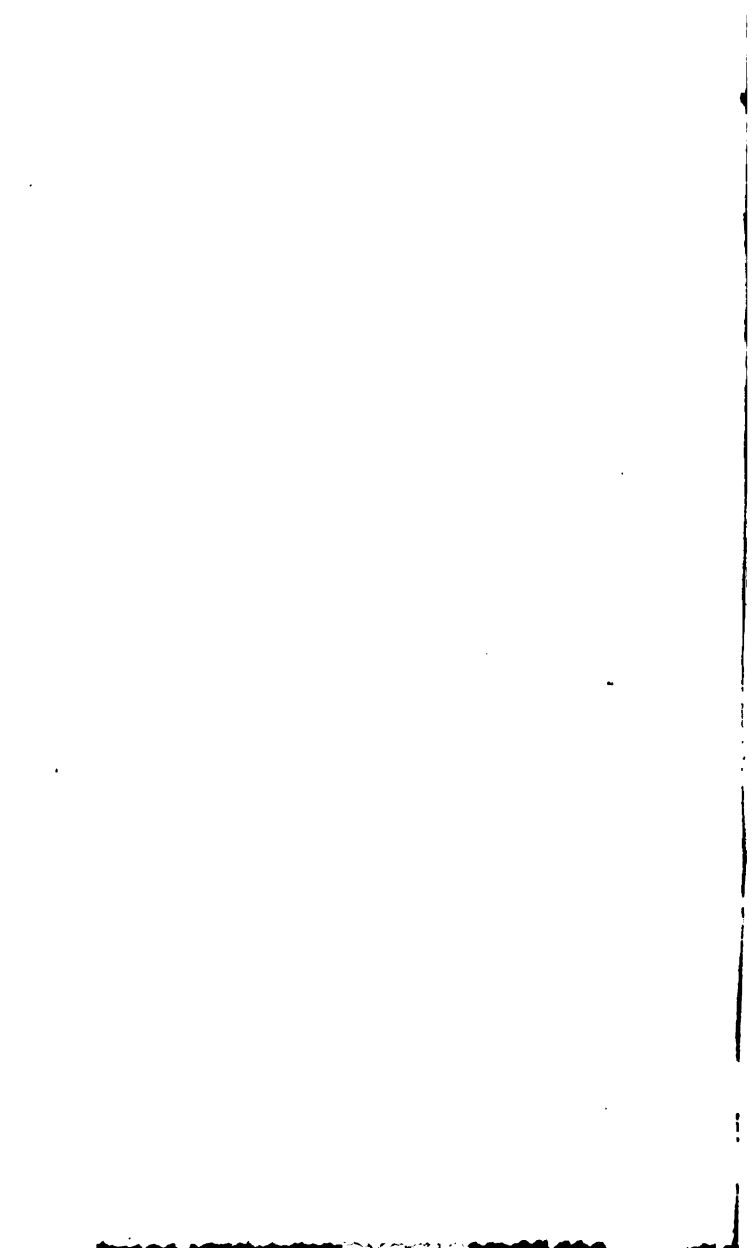
Gough Add<sup>1</sup>

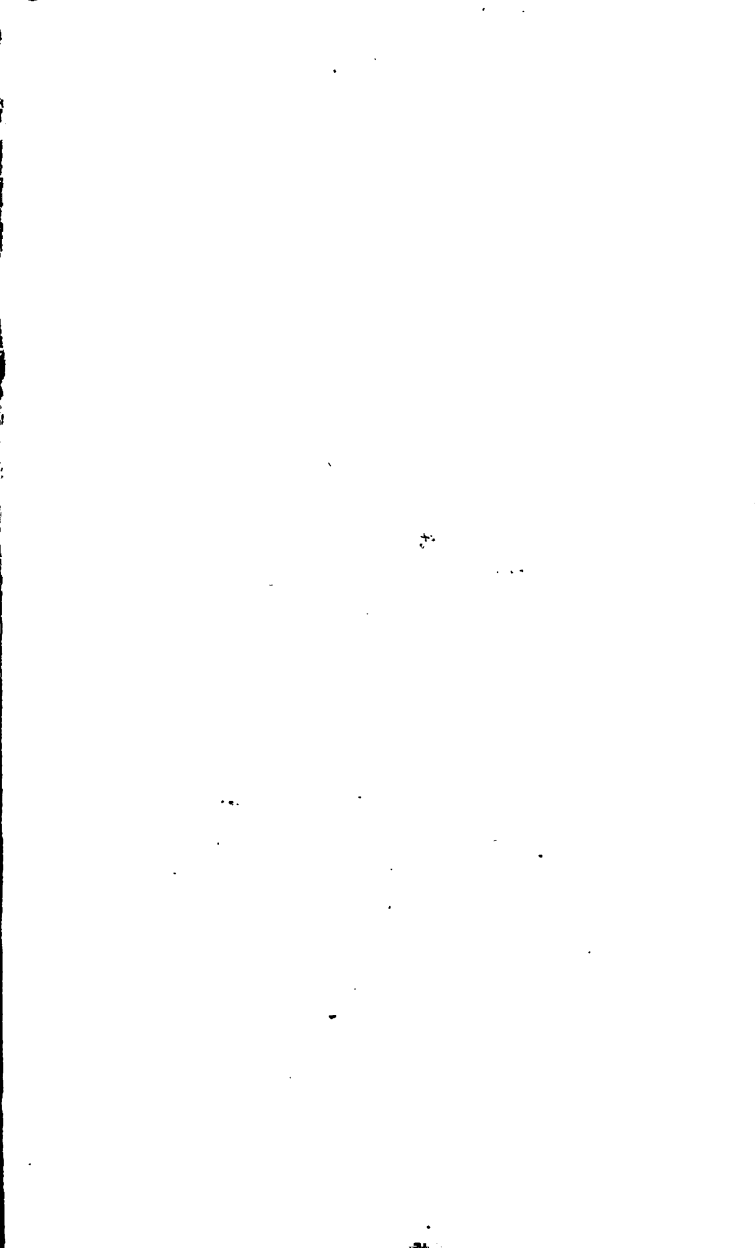
Nott<sup>2</sup>

p. 6.











*East-Beetford Church.*

1789.

THE  
**HISTORY OF RETFORD,**

IN THE  
County of Nottingham.

COMPRISING  
*ITS ANCIENT, PROGRESSIVE, AND MODERN*  
**STATE,**  
WITH  
AN HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
**VILLAGES**  
OF WEST RETFORD, BABWORTH, ORDSALL,  
GROVE, AND CLARBOROUGH.

---

**BY JOHN S. PIERCY.**

---

"Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore  
Who danced our infancy upon their knee,  
And told our marvelling boyhood legend's store,  
Of their strange 'ventures happ'd by land or sea,  
How are they blotted from the things that be!  
How few, all weak and wither'd in their force,  
Wait on the verge of dark eternity,  
Like stranded wrecks, the tide returning hoarse,  
To sweep them from our sight! Time rolls his ceaseless course."  
*Sir Walter Scott.*

---

**RETFORD:**

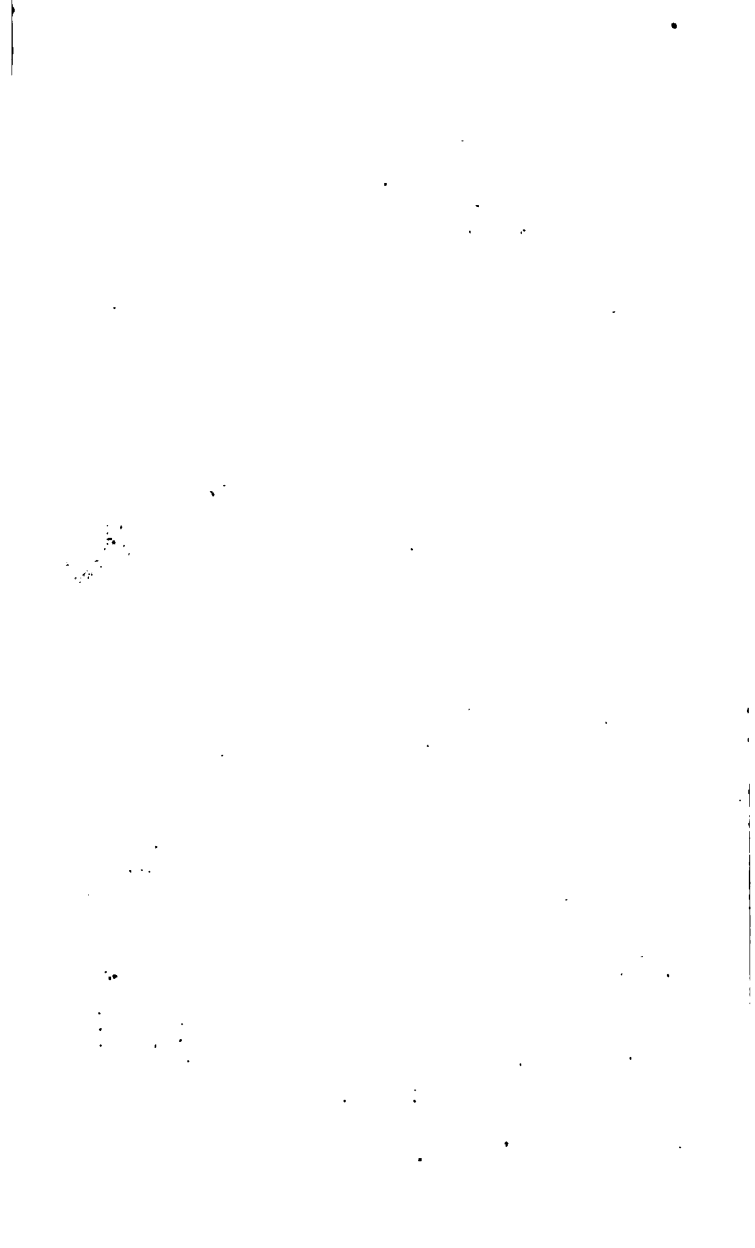
*Printed for the Author, by F. Hodson;*

And sold by Longman, Rees, & Co. Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, and Sherwood,  
Neeley, and Jones, Paternoster Row, London; Stretton, Sutton, Dunn, and  
Kirke, Nottingham; Whitlam, and Simons, Worksop; T. Brooke & Co.  
and C. and J. White, Doncaster; Stark, and Arncoats, Gainsbro'; Drury,  
Lincoln; J. & S. Ridge, Newark; Wilson & Sons, and Bellerby, York;  
Smithson, Malton; Cole, Scarbro'; and by all other Booksellers.

---

1 8 2 8.







TO THE MOST NOBLE

**Henry, Duke of Newcastle, K.G.**

Esq. &c.

CUSTOS ROTULORUM, AND LORD LIEUTENANT,

OF THE

**County of Nottingham,**

THE FOLLOWING

**HISTORY OF RETFORD,**

AND THE

VILLAGES IN ITS VICINAGE,

IS

(WITH PERMISSION)

MOST HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS GRACE'S

OBEDIENT, HUMBLE SERVANT,

**JOHN S. PIERCY.**



## PREFACE.

---

IN presuming to lay before the public an Historical Account of the Borough of East Retford, and of the villages in its immediate vicinity, I deem it necessary to state the motives which induced me to commence the undertaking.

Time, that great despoiler of every thing terrestrial, had long since laid his withering hand on many ancient documents of interest and moment, and in a few more years would have buried them in oblivion. Feeling the absolute necessity of something being done, as well from personal observations as from the representation of others, I was induced to make this attempt, but with what success.

"This let the world, which knows not how to spare,  
Yet rarely blames unjustly, now declare."

It is to myself matter of as great regret, as it can possibly be to any of my readers, that the task has not fallen to some one

"Older in practice, abler than myself."

From the many and varied duties which I am called upon to perform, it must be expected that

such attention has not been paid to various subjects, which, under other circumstances, might have been; and that many deficiencies will be found to exist in a work requiring the exercise of talents far superior to any which I can boast of possessing.

In forming a judgment on my labours, the public will do me justice to bear in mind, that my task has been to traverse a wilderness, through which a path had ne'er been beaten,—nay where human foot had never trod,—with but little light to dissipate the gloom. There is another circumstance, likewise, which gives me a strong claim on their lenient consideration, which is, the paucity of materials for an undertaking of this nature; most of those places which come under the observations of historians have known from time immemorial an uninterrupted succession of lords, whose respective lives have formed a complete chain of continuity, or a sort of railway along which the writer had nothing to do but to drive; this is, however, an advantage which East Retford cannot boast of having enjoyed.

The obscurity of the situation of East Retford in “the days of other years” has likewise proved a great obstacle in the way of a straight forward narrative, and has, in a considerable degree, contributed to heighten the difficulties of connecting

the various epochs, so as to enable me to give a succinct and detailed account. Previous to the 17th century, the Corporation was in possession of numerous documents containing very valuable information, but unfortunately the major part were lost in the ruins of the Church, when it was destroyed, and many of those which were saved were so much damaged as to be almost unintelligible. But most of these having escaped the Scylla of a storm have fallen into that Charybdis, yelep'd, the Court of Chancery, their release from which, at any particular time, it were a folly to account as certain.

In recording the various events, I have endeavoured to adhere to the real and definitive features of the subject, without hunting after vague probabilities, or amusing myself by indulging in improbable speculative surmises.

Flattering the neighbouring nobility and gentry, and other principal inhabitants, and proprietors, a fault, too often attendant upon local history, it has been my study to avoid, from a conviction that real worth and merit would feel pained at any lengthened or studied encomiums, whilst the good sense of my readers would be insulted were I to bestow praise and panygerics where they were not due.

The various embellishments it is hoped will be

found worthy the objects they are intended to represent, and are offered with confidence to the attention of the antiquary and the admirer of the fine arts. Those engraved by JEWITT fully supports that character which he has so justly earned; and those by CAVE, of York, are excellent specimens of that gentleman's superior method of engraving.

To several gentlemen I beg to tender my warmest acknowledgments for the kind assistance which in a variety of ways they have afforded me, particularly to the Rev. Archdeacon EYRE, A. H. EYRE, Esq. THOMAS DENMAN, Esq. and JOHN MEE, Esq. for whose numerous favours I cannot be sufficiently grateful.

In conclusion I beg to throw myself on the indulgence of the public, and trust my claims for success will be tried by the inclination I have evinced to do justice to my arduous task, rather than by the ability with which it is executed, feeling convinced that however deficient I may have been in the latter quality, the former one will ensure me the meed of approbation.

*East Retford, Sept. 22d, 1828.*

# HISTORY OF RETFORD.

---

## CHAP. I.

**Hundred of Bassetlaw—Derivation of the Town's  
Name—General Observations, &c.**

---

### HUNDRED OF BASSETLAW.

RETFORD being the principal market town in the Hundred of Bassetlaw, a short account thereof will not be unacceptable at the commencement of this history.

All historians agree that King Alfred caused England to be divided into shires or counties, and these again to be subdivided into hundreds or wapentakes: a proceeding at that period rendered necessary to the due administration of justice, as well as to reduce the inhabitants, who were fierce and licentious, to the salutary restraint of law and wholesome government.

The Hundreds in the county of Nottingham are now



reduced to six\*; these are Rushcliffe, Bingham, Newark, Bassetlaw, Broxtow, and Thurgarton. These Hundreds are very unequal in size, (as much so as the various counties,) and are supposed to have been so called because they contained a *hundred* towns each; this supposition is evidently erroneous, for, as Thorton justly observes, "Such we have none, but more likely of *that* number of free sureties, or frankpledges for the peace†, or else of able soldiers for the war, which number in some places, exceeded more, in others less, as we may well suppose; and in process of time (if nothing else did,) made the inequality."

The Hundred of Bassetlaw (called in *Nomina Villarum*, about the year 1315, Bersetelowe, afterwards we find it written Bernedsetlawe, Bernedeslawe, and Bassetlawe,) is somewhat of an oval shape, and extends along the bank of the river Trent (in two instances it verges to the opposite side) from Heck

---

\* Formerly there appears to have been *eight*. In Doomsday book, what is now termed the North Clay Division, was then called the Soke of Oswardebec, that is a wapentake, or hundred; and so late as the 16th century the Hundred of Hatfield merged into a Division of the Hundred of Bassetlaw.

† In the 12th of Edward the second, (1318,) Robert de Perpont, Richard de Willughby, and Richard de Whatton, were created assignen justices to enquire of the transgressions made by John de Lanum, one of the Kings Bayliffs of the Wapentach of Bersetelowe.

Dyke, a little below West Stockwith, to the parish of Fledborough; it there joins the Hundred of Thurgarton, and proceeds nearly as far as Shirewood Inn, on the Forest, where it takes the boundary line of Broxtow Hundred till it joins the county of Derby, near Nettleworth; it is then limited by that county, and likewise Yorkshire, until it approaches to an apex below Finningley, where Lincolnshire again determines its extent to the entrance of the Heck Dyke into the Trent. 'This Hundred consists of three divisions, viz. Hatfield, and North and South Clay: the first embraces all the land on the west side of the river Idle, which as Thoroton states has ever been famous "for woods and pleasant waters, insomuch that in it alone have been founded well nigh as many Monasteries as in the whole county besides.'" The two remaining divisions include the district between the Idle and the Trent, which, from the nature of the soil, is considered highly fertile both as arable and pasture land.

The latitude of the Hundred of Bassetlaw extends from fifty-three degrees, nine minutes, to fifty-three degrees, thirty-two minutes north; it is about twenty-seven miles long, and seventeen broad; its circumference is estimated at upwards of eighty miles, and its superficial content at 174000 acres. It contains sixty-six parishes, in which are eighty-four villages, and four market towns, viz. Retford, Tuxford, Worksop, and Ollerton, and part of Bawtry; and according to the

parliamentary census taken in 1821, it has a population of 36445 souls.

This Hundred has been distinguished from time immemorial for the number of seats of noblemen and gentlemen comprised within its limits, so much so as to have received the appellation of the "*DUKERY*." During the late discussions in Parliament, this term was not unfrequently introduced to prove that the return of two members to serve in Parliament for the Hundred, would altogether rest with one or two of the said noblemen. The following list\* however will prove that whatever influence those distinguished individuals do possess, there is an interest—an independent interest, paramount to the whole of their's combined, which, in the event of a contest, would prove the truth of this assertion.

The DUKE of NEWCASTLE, *Cumber Park*

The DUKE of NORFOLK, *Worksop Manor*

The DUKE of PORTLAND, *Welbeck Abbey*

|                                            |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Earl Manserv, <i>Thoresby Park</i>         | G. S. Foljambe, Esq. <i>Osberton</i>         |
| Lord Middleton, <i>Wollaton</i>            | H. G. Knight, Esq. <i>Langold</i>            |
| Earl Bathurst, <i>Langwith</i>             | E. E. Dennison, Esq. M. P. <i>Ossington</i>  |
| Lord Howard, <i>Wellow</i>                 | A. H. Eyre, Esq. <i>Grove</i>                |
| Lord Galway, <i>Serleby Hall</i>           | W. Mason, Esq. <i>Morton</i>                 |
| Lord Althorpe, M. P. <i>Wiseton Hall</i>   | J. Angerstein, Esq. <i>Ragnall</i>           |
| Sir T. W. White, Bart. <i>Wallingwells</i> | P. B. Thompson, Esq. <i>Eskrick</i>          |
| Hon. J. B. Simpson, <i>Babworth</i>        | H. Walker, Esq. <i>Blyth</i>                 |
| Hon. & Rev. J. L. Saville, <i>Ruford</i>   | D. Walters, Esq. <i>Barnwood, Gloucester</i> |

\* This list might be considerably enlarged, but want of room will not allow of further particularization.

## DERIVATION OF THE TOWN'S NAME.

SINCE the first mention of this borough in historical records its name has undergone several changes, yet none of them seem to clash with the generally received opinion as to its derivation.

The most ancient document on which reliance can be placed, is Domesday record, where it is written *Redeford*, but whether East or West we are not informed. Early in the 13th century it was commonly written *Este Reddfurthe*, which change from the one just quoted does not speak greatly for the advancement which learning had made during the intervening period. This pronunciation however appears to fix the date of the ancient seal belonging to the corporation, (of which a correct representation is elsewhere given,) the rude inscription which encircles it corresponding in every particular with the above. In the subsequent century it was written *Est Redeforde*, afterwards *East Redforde*, up to the middle of the last century *East Redford*, and finally, as at present, *East Retford*. Notwithstanding however, that such alterations were made at the different periods, according to the notions of the different writers, or agreeably with the taste of the times, it will be allowed that none of them tend to throw any obstacles in the way of defining the cause from whence it originated. It therefore was called *East*, because seated on the east bank of

the river Idle, and *Retford* or *Redford*, from an ancient ford over that river, the waters of which flowing over a stratum of red clay became tinged with that colour, from the frequent passing and repassing of cattle, &c. and as this circumstance could not fail to attract attention, it was named *Red-ford*. The situation of this ford was about a hundred yards below the bridge which connects the two *Retfords*, where its present shallowness sufficiently identifies the spot, and several persons are now living who can recollect its being used in that manner.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

PREVIOUS to giving the account of East Retford in its ancient state, it may seem necessary to lay before the reader a concise but general description of it in the present day.

*Situation.*—The borough of East Retford is situated in the North Clay Division of the Hundred of Bas-setlaw, in the north-eastern part of the county of Nottingham, in latitude fifty-three degrees nineteen minutes forty-six seconds north, and fifty-one minutes forty-nine seconds of west longitude, on the eastern bank of the river Idle. Its distance from London, by the Great North Road, is 144 miles, and by way of Huntingdon something less; from Nottingham 32 miles; from Lincoln, by way of Littleborough Ferry 23 miles; and from Doncaster 18 miles. It is pleasantly situa-

ted on the line of the North Road, in a central part of the country, and is entered on every side by a beautiful and gradual descent; so that let the tourist approach it from what quarter soever he may, he will be particularly struck with the neatness which is every where visible around him.

*Extent.*—The Borough is bounded on the east and north-east by the Hamlets of Moorgate and Spittal Hill; on the west by West Retford; on the south by the parish of Ordsall; and on the south-east by the hamlet of Little Gringley. Its extent is extremely limited; the whole site, comprising the cars and commons, the market-place, the streets, buildings, &c. being only about one hundred and twenty acres.

*Roads, &c.*—Retford occupying a situation on the Great North Road, and in the midst of a rich and fertile tract of agricultural country, possesses numerous advantages of which many other places are destitute. Whilst accommodation is afforded to travellers to the north and south, it is far from being deficient to the east and west. 'The road to Gainsbro', from the facilities which that place daily affords to the port of Hull, may be said to open the way to every part of the globe: not only the treasures of the Indies, but the riches of more southern climes here find a ready conveyance. The road to Lincoln by way of Littleborough Ferry, which until lately was almost impassable at any season of the year, is now, through the

admirable system promulgated by Mr. M'Adam, equal to any other in the kingdom, so that the traveller can cross to Lincoln several miles nearer than formerly; and the farmer can conveniently deliver the produce of his labour at all seasons.

To the west likewise, the public are greatly indebted to the same gentleman for the superior manner in which he has completed the road from Retford to Worksop. The expenses attendant upon this undertaking were very great; but the road—though *thirty* per cent. more expensive travelling than formerly, is *seventy-five* per cent. better, which those will acknowledge who have once *ploughed* the road when journeying with any vehicle across that part of the country. Having mentioned the North Road in another place, it will here be necessary only to notice, that previous to the Act of Parliament being obtained, this road was equally bad with the rest: that part towards the White Houses, (southward) called “Farmers’ Lane,” was narrow and dirty, and the causeways here and there were studded with large stones for the *accommodation* of foot passengers; whilst towards the north, after passing West Retford field, the traveller was frequently in danger of being immersed in the bogs and quagmires, with which Barnby Common almost every where abounded.

Now however all these difficulties are obviated, better roads not being in any part of the kingdom; and

from the high state of cultivation which the land has every where attained in the neighbourhood, the inhabitants may be said to live in the midst of plenty, being completely surrounded by the beauties of spring—favoured with the smiles of an almost perennial summer—bountifully supplied from the lap of a generous autumn, and completely secured from those blasts which are the bitter fruits of a northern winter.

*Soil.*—Dr. Miller, in his History of Doncaster, observes, that “our ancestors seem to have been fond of building their large market towns at the extremity of two different soils; thus the town of Retford 17 miles south from Doncaster, has at one end of it, a stiff clay, and at the other, sand.” This remark of the Dr.’s is certainly correct, but the reader is not to suppose that these are the only kinds of land adjacent to the town. To the north-east the soil is of a blackish nature, and a light gravel; the former having been famous for the production of good hops, and the latter in the growth of wheat, and most other kinds of grain. Towards the south, the soil differs more than towards the north. In Ordsall parish, (until about the middle of the last century,) the land was completely barren, its spontaneous growth hardly any thing but rushes, and let for about three shillings per acre; but from the improvements in drainage, &c. the barren wilderness became metamorphosed into a blooming landscape, and the face of nature assumed a cast, to which she had



previously been a stranger. If we journey further southward, the land, for some distance, continues to increase in goodness and in value; and the fine tracts of grazing land, as well as those appropriated to agricultural purposes, bear evident testimony of the superior character of the soil.

*Trade.*—The trade of Retford was formerly considerable in barley, for malting, but lately has suffered a considerable declension, having been superseded by Worksop. In 1788, a worsted mill was attempted here by the late Major Cartwright and others, but the plan failed, and many individuals were ruined in consequence. A mill for the manufacture of candlewick was also established, but after the demise of its respected proprietor, (Mr. Brumby,) it fell into complete decay. Here is at present a paper mill, and a sail-cloth manufactory, and the other trades are in hats and shoes.

*Climate.*—The climate in the neighbourhood of Retford is considered to be more equal in temperature than any of the surrounding counties; and the quantity of rain which falls is somewhat below the medium of the kingdom. In 1825, the annual average amounted only to 28.31 inches, whilst at Kendal, in Westmoreland, in the same period, it was 59.973 inches. In order to account for this deficiency, Mr. Lowe conceives, that although the greatest rains come with the easterly winds from the German Ocean, yet the sur-

charged clouds being powerfully attracted by the mountains of Derbyshire, pass over this part too quickly to deposit much of their moisture ; whilst, on the other hand, the clouds from the Western Ocean and Irish channel are attracted and broken by the Yorkshire and Derbyshire mountains, before they arrive at this level district.

## CHAP. II.

**Prefatory Observations—Extracts from Domesday Book—Public and Private Grants, &c., Chronologically arranged.**

---

### PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS.

THE name of Retford not occurring in any known document previous to Domesday survey, we are left completely in the dark respecting its foundation ; and were an opinion to be hazarded upon the subject, it would be considered useless, and its uncertainty tend to divest it of all authority. The time when the Romans reigned supreme in this country, notwithstanding the proximity of Retford to one of their public roads, as well as its comparatively short distance from Littleborough, one of their most favourite stations, (the undoubted "*Agelocum*" or "*Segelocum*" mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus,\*) Retford must have been

---

\* The age in which this celebrated topographer lived is unknown ; but his valuable work entitled "*Itinerarium*," will not fail to carry his name to the latest generation. During the last century, Burton published an excellent commentary on it as far as relates to Britain, in folio.

of trifling importance, otherwise, it is reasonable to presume it would not have escaped the observation of that brave and warlike people. It is not, however, to these two circumstances alone that we would confine our attention, but, as will be shown in the historical account of Grove, that place was once occupied by her armies, and probably, from the eligibility of its situation, it was one of their favourite encampments, and became the central point of their military stations in this part of the country. Assuming this hypothesis to be true, and of which there can be little doubt, can it for a moment be supposed that Retford would have escaped their notice, had it been worthy of it? Reason would at once negative the supposition;—we may therefore conclude that its native insignificance, combined with its low and swampy situation, rendered it any thing but desirable.

After the Romans had finally deserted the country, it was greatly annoyed by the internal divisions which sprung up between the Picts and Scots, till at length, after much bloodshed, it became a prey to the Saxons, who continued to hold it until they were completely routed by King Arthur, in 521, after whose death, the Britons were unable to maintain the power which they had acquired, and the Saxons again became “masters of the soil.”

To this æra the historian is accustomed to look for those records which form the groundwork, as well as

give the earliest evidences, of local history. Indeed, according to Thoroton, there is not the name of any field, hamlet, village, or town, which is not of Saxon etymology; yet strange as it may appear, not a single ray of documentary light is on record respecting Retford, either to assist in piercing the gloom of that period, or to chase away the errors which superstition or traditionary legends may, since that time, have assisted in promulgating.

#### DOOMSDAY BOOK.\*

In Domesday book, the name of Redforde and Bedeford occurs in several places, but I am apprehensive that this place is only mentioned twice or three

---

\* This monument, the most invaluable piece of antiquity possessed by any nation, is still preserved in the chapter-house at Westminster; it consists of two ponderous volumes, and may be consulted for a fee of 6s. 8d. and 4d. per line for transcripts. A *fac-simile* of their contents was printed some years ago, by order of Parliament; but excellent translations have been made by Bawdwin, and others. It was undertaken and completed by order of William the Conqueror in six years, and contains an exact survey of the lands, goods, &c. of every person living in England; (with the exception of Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, the bishopric of Durham, and part of Lancashire;) with what he used to pay in the times of the Saxons; and what stock each had, and ready money,—what he owed, and what was owing to him; and in some counties the number of tenants, cottagers, and slaves, of all denominations, who lived upon the estates are enumerated.

times at the farthest, the others evidently referring to West Retford, Radford near Worksop, or Radford near Nottingham, large quantities of land being mentioned which never existed here. In this opinion Mr. Thoroton appears to coincide. The entry is as under,—

**¶ In REDFORDE I. mol.. ptin ad sudtone.**

From which may be gathered, that in Retford there was one mill belonging to the fee of Sutton, the property of the Archbishop of York. Two other entries, supposed by Bawdwin,\* to allude to this place, are as follows,—

**§ In Odesthorpe & Redforde. I bou t<sup>7</sup>ræ & d<sup>7</sup>im ad gld. Tra. III. bou. <sup>or</sup> <sup>7</sup> SocA in Clabre. Wasta. e.**

**§ In Odesthorpe & Redforde d<sup>7</sup>im bou t<sup>7</sup>ræ ad gld. Tra. III. bou <sup>or</sup> <sup>7</sup> Ibi. e un uill & III. pars. I. molini. & III. ac <sup>u</sup>pti.**

That is,—In Odesthorpe (now unknown) and Retford, there was one bovat and three quarters of land to be taxed. The land four bovats. Soke in Clumber. The land was waste.

Also, in Odesthorpe and Retford, there was half an oxgang to be taxed. Land to four oxen. There is

\* Bawdwin's Doomsday, p. 346—360.

one villain\* there, and the fourth part of one mill, and four acres of meadow. Thus briefly is Retford noticed, the foundation of its history consequently rests upon a very circumscribed basis.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GRANTS, ETC.

1278. The Jury found that Walter Prat held a mansion here of John Prat his brother, in free burgage; likewise of Thomas, son of Ralph de Hayton, two acres and a half of meadow, and of divers small parcels in several places, and that Adam Prat, then seven years old, was his only son and heir.

1357. John Atte Vykers recovered his seisin of one messuage and one toft in East Retford, and Walter, son of Adam Prat, and others, were amerced.

1377. John Atte Vykers granted to the bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty, towards the support of the chaplains of the Holy Trinity, and of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the church of St. Swithin, in East Retford, and for the salvation of his soul,—the souls of his

---

\* The *villains* were an order of tenantry somewhat superior to the "common herd:" notwithstanding they were bondmen, born upon and transferable with the estates; they were however allowed to hold land in their own right, and consequently though in a servile condition, they enjoyed privileges of which the *bordars*, who were servants of the lowest degree, were entirely deprived.

ancestors, and of all his benefactors for ever, eight pieces of land in East Retford, with the erections upon them; together with a fourth part of his timber at Langwagh, and the whole of that which he had by purchase of Lord Walter Power, on condition that the said bailiffs, &c. should pay him the yearly rent of £10. for the term of his life. He also gave them one garden, with a croft adjoining, called Bolton Yherd, not included in the above agreement.

1385. Richard de Racliffe, parson of Cloun, William de Burgh, parson of Babworth, and Peter leCooke, chaplain, gave to the prior and convent of Worksop, five messuages, and the moiety of three messuages in East Retford, to find a chaplain to pray for the good estate of the said Richard, William, and Peter, whilst they should live, and daily to celebrate mass for them all when they should be dead, in the church of the said priory.

In the same year, the king, (Richard II.) granted to John Lesta, parson of West Retford; Thomas, vicar of Clarborough; Thomas, vicar of East Retford; John de Tyreswell, chaplain; Hugh de Tyn, of Retford; William de Burgh, parson of Babworth; John Atte Vykers; and Thomas de Besthorpe, that they should give to the bailiffs of East Retford, and their successors, nine messuages, five tofts, and 8s. rent in East Retford, which they had held of the king in free burgage by the service of 1*l*. per annum, to find two



chaplains to officiate at the altars of St. Trinity and St. Mary, in the church of East Retford, according to the ordinance of the Archbishop of York.

1388. This year the old town-hall was erected. An agreement was entered into between the bailiffs and commonalty, and twenty burgesses, viz. Robert Usher; John de Kirton, Berker; Roger de Hawardby; William de Balderton; Thomas de Huntersfield; Thomas Waddester; William Mayson; John de Manton; John Prentys, Berker; Roger de Thurlhy; John de Toller-ton; John de Lound, draper; William de Haynton; John Arnald; John Lord; John Smyth; Roger Barber; Thomas de Manton; John Barke Corvaser; and Robert Wright; for the completion of the building. At the same time was to be made "one stockhouse, for stocks to be set under the steps of the hall aforesaid, which said hall, chamber, and *stockhouse should be daily exercised for the use of the bailiffs for the time being, when need should require.*" Whether this exercise was ever practised, and how long it continued, I am unable to say; latterly however the municipal authorities have dispensed with the *recreation*.

1392. This year, William de Burgh, parson of Babworth, and John de Tyreswell, chaplain of the blessed virgin Mary, of East Retford, granted a house situate in Kyrkgate, to Cecilia, relict of William Mayson, for the term of her life, and at her decease to become the property of the bailiffs, &c. for ever.

The Corporation are in possession of a document under the seal of the Archbishop of York, dated 13th August, 1392, confirming the appointment of the two chaplains, appointed by the bailiffs.

1426. John Schether, and John Milner of East Retford, and John Taylour of Wellome Morgatte, gave one tenement lying in Bryggate, and abutting upon the Kynegesgate, to Robert Holme, vicar of the parish, and to William Wright, chaplain.

1474. This year, William Walker granted one tenement "abutting upon the market-stede, and the west head abutting upon the water of Idill," (formerly the property of "John Pye of Roderham,") to Ma<sup>r</sup> Robert Gyll, vicar, Richard Byrstow, and Bryan Clarke.

1500. At the beginning of this century, and for some time subsequent, this town appears to have made considerable progress in the improvement and extension of its buildings, so much so, as to place it more on a level with the rest of the kingdom. During the reign of Henry the seventh, the civil wars which had distracted the country for a long time, were put an end to, and the prosperity of the country soon began to develop itself. On the accession of Henry the eighth, the value of property became considerably augmented, —at least it rose from a value which in reality was but nominal before, to a certain rate bearing an equality to the increase in the value of the currency of the country. In Retford and its vicinage, many build-

ings were erected to accommodate the wants of an increasing population, and the numerous transfers of property which were effected, gives ample proof of the growing importance which this part of the country was at that time acquiring.

1518. This year, Thomas Gunthorpe, parson of Babworth, "of his good, charitable, and virtuous disposition," agreed with the bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty, that *they* should at his own proper costs and expences, build, and set up in timber, workmanship, and all other things necessary to a school-house in East Retford, upon such a convenient ground in the same town as could be devised between the said parties.

1521. William Underwoode, this year, granted two tofts, lying in Newgate street, to Richard Kytteson, and William Rossell, burgesses of East Retford.

1537. By letters patent, dated October 6th, Henry the eighth, granted the manor and lordship of East Retford, to George, Earl of Shrewsbury and Waterford. He also further granted to Sir John Markham, Kt. all the lands lying within this borough, which formerly belonged to the Abbey of Rufford, as well as the grange standing within the precincts of the town.

1539. Henry the eighth, by letters patent, dated February 26th, granted all the lands belonging to the Abbey of Welbeck, lying in East Retford, which were then rented at £2. 17s. 4d. a year, to Richard Whalley and his heirs, for ever.

1540. This year the priory of Mattersea possessed lands here of the annual value of 13*s.* 4*d.*, which by letters patent, dated November 4th, were granted to Anthony Nevile, Esq.

1542. The priory of Radford, near Worksop, had rents of assize here, valued at 7*s.* 6*d.*, and lands valued at £3. 11*s.* which on the 22nd November, were granted to Francis, the fifth Earl of Shrewsbury.

Whatever the motives might be which induced Henry to suppress the various monastic institutions, does not furnish the subject of our present enquiry; but the beneficial effects resulting from them will be felt and acknowledged to the remotest generations. During the dark ages of superstition and bigotry, the demon of persecution and intolerance stalked through the land with impunity,—scattering the seeds of persecution and disloyalty, when, and wherever, she thought proper. Now, however, the dawn of reason, assisted by the light of divine truth, began to diverge its luminous rays in every direction; the phantom of superstition, which had been nursed and reared in the various *religious* houses which every where abounded, finding “the schoolmaster was abroad” in England, took her hideous flight to the continent, where, in order to reconcile herself to the fate, to which she had in the first instance subjected herself, she has continued to wage war against the spread of that light which infringed upon her dominions, and assisted in chasing her away.

Nevertheless, in spite of her utmost efforts, the Protestant religion has continued to spread far and wide, —not only in this country, but has been carried by British sons,—and through their exertions been propagated, through almost every part of the civilized world.

1548. Thomas Wright, freemason, and Vicps Weston, both of East Retford, granted to John Hercy, Esq. of Grove, Nicholas Denman, Esq., Charles Denman, Gent., Humphrey Denney, Gent., Robert Golland, John Wadsone, Nicholas Wilson, and John Thackerow, vicar, such property as they were possessed of in East Retford.

1551. The benefits resulting from the suppression of the greater and lesser monasteries, soon made themselves felt throughout the country, and learning began to be esteemed and much sought after. Accordingly after the death of Henry, his successor, (Edward VI.) on ascending the throne, seeing the bent of the people's disposition to be in favour of an extension in the means of acquiring knowledge, established schools in different parts of the country, amongst which was the Free Grammar School at this place. The patent is dated December 9th, 1551.

1554. On the 2nd October, Sir John Hercy of Grove, granted to the bailiffs and burgesses a quantity of land in the Hamlet of Greenley, and also two tofts in Chapelgate.

1600. From the records belonging to the Corpora-

tion, it appears during the latter part of the 16th century, that a very considerable increase had taken place in the population of the town, and persons of wealth and importance had taken up their residence therein; but that in consequence of the antiquity of some of the charters under which the town was governed, (which were in a great measure obsolete,) it was thought necessary to apply to government for such a charter as would effectually govern the town, and be more in unison with the intellectual enlightenment of the age; this was done, and a new charter obtained in 1607; which, as it is the only one under which the Corporation act, the reader will find at length in a subsequent part of the work.

1627. Since the time of obtaining the charter, the annual payment of £10. to the crown, (the fee farm of the town,) had been discontinued, as, from the tenor of the said charter it was considered to have been finally adjusted. On the 10th July, however, the bailiffs received notice to appear before his Majesty's receiver of the counties of Nottingham and Derby, to pay the said rental, and also the fee-farm of the mills of the town.

1645. During the unfortunate dissensions which sprung up between Charles and the parliament, and the still more unfortunate events which followed, this county appears to have been one of the chief places where the ill-fated monarch took up his quarters. I do not

however find that this town was ever honoured with the presence of Royalty, except on the 20th of August in this year, when Charles passed through on his route from Doncaster to Newmarket.

From this period little mention is made of Retford in any public documents for several years ; nevertheless we may naturally conclude, that this town progressively improved in its internal appearances, and the inhabitants participated in those refinements, along with the rest of the kingdom during the subsequent reigns of the members of the illustrious house of Hanover, which have so far characterized this country above all others.

## CHAP. III.

### **First establishment of Corporations—Recapitulation of Ancient Grants, Charters, &c.—Charter of King James the First.**

---

#### **FIRST ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATIONS.**

AT what period the first establishment of Communities or Corporations took place, seems involved in mystery, and several of our most celebrated historians are by no means agreed upon the subject. Some are of opinion that incorporations did not take place, in this country, until after the Norman conquest; amongst these may be reckoned Hume, Robertson, and others; the latter of whom observes, that charters of Community were first introduced into France and other countries of Europe, about the years 1108 and 1137. Authorities like these, it must be acknowledged, are not easily overturned; nevertheless, Lord Littleton, on the other hand remarks, that “It is not improbable that some towns in England were formed into Corporations under the Saxon kings, and that the charters granted by the kings of the Norman race, were not charters of



enfranchisement from a state of slavery, but confirmations of privileges which they already enjoyed."

Which of these opinions may be correct is not for me to determine; no record of antiquity, sufficient to solve the mystery, having come under my observation during the research which I have made amongst the ancient documents pertaining to the Corporation of East Retford.

East Retford is a Borough by prescription,\* and is undoubtedly of very high antiquity; but whatever its age may be, it is to be feared the name of its original patron must for ever remain involved in obscurity.

In making out a regular series of the various charters, &c. which have, at different periods, been given to this town, considerable difficulty has arisen in consequence of some being lost, others, from the length of time passed away since they were granted, and from various other causes, have become illegible, and the dates of the remainder being frequently at variance with each other. To one of the above causes, I am inclined to believe, may be attributed the misfortune to which allusion has previously been made. In order, therefore, to supply this defect, conjecture must be had resource to, which will, almost beyond dispute,

---

\* By prescription signifies that it is a Borough in virtue of those customs and privileges, which has, from immemorial usage, obtained the force of law.

fix it upon Richard I.\* commonly called *Cœur de Lion*, as the original benefactor of the Borough. The charter, however, is not at present in existence, but judging from the tenor of certain ancient documents which I have perused, the incorporation must have taken place between the years 1185 and 1200, and during the intervening period, the name of Richard I. is not unfrequently mentioned.

#### RECAPITULATION OF ANCIENT GRANTS, &c.

In 1246, Henry the third, for the bettering of this Borough, granted to the burgesses, and their heirs, one fair, annually, for eight days, viz. on the eve, the day, and the morrow of Holy Trinity, and five days following. He also granted them and their successors that whilst resident in the Borough, they should be acquitted of toll, pannage, and murage, throughout the whole kingdom. He likewise granted to them and their heirs, in fee-farm for twenty marks of silver, yearly, the tolls of the bridge at Kelim, and all along to Dourbeck where it falls into the Trent, and of Eperstone, and the bridge of Mirald and of Retford, and of all other places where the burgesses of the town of Nottingham were wont to take toll.

---

\* It is supposed that during the reign of this prince, coat armour was introduced into this country, which, as the face of the warrior was concealed by the barred vizor, was rendered necessary as a distinctive cognizance whereby he might be distinguished in the field of battle.

On the 27th November, 1279, Edward the first, granted the town in fee-farm to the burgesses, paying for the same £10. per annum; he also granted that they should have a market on every saturday, with stall, tollage, stalls, and other liberties and free customs belonging to the same. He likewise gave them a court to plead the writ of a certain patent of the common law, and to have the amendment of the assize of bread and beer,\* and the pillory and the ducking stool,† and wrecks‡ and waives;|| and to have a bailiff of themselves, when to them should seem expedient to the keeping of the said town and its appurtenances.

---

\* The power of settling the assize of bread and beer, was a privilege, commonly granted to corporate bodies, conformably with a statute of Henry the second.

† The ducking stool, or *tumberel*, "was an engine of punishment, which used to be in every liberty, having view of frankpledge, for the correction of scolds and other unquiet or disorderly women. This machine was in use in this country during Saxon times, and is mentioned in Domesday-book, under the appellation of the *cathedra stercoris*, as the delinquents used to be placed in the chair, and ducked in stinking water." *Holland's Hist. Workshop*.

‡ Wreck, by the ancient common law, was where any ship was lost at sea, and the goods or cargo thrown upon land; in which case, the goods were adjudged to belong to the king.

|| Waifs, *bona waviata*, were goods stolen, and waived or thrown away by the thief in his flight, for fear of being apprehended. These were given to the king by the law, as a punishment upon the owner, for not himself pursuing the felon, and taking away his goods from him.

In 1336, Edward the third\* confirmed all the liberties which had previously been granted to the town, and further granted that the inhabitants should not be put on Juries at the assizes, or recognize any matters with foreigners on occasion of lands and tenements either without or within the said Borough; he also exempted them from all tolls and foreign services.

It appears that the burgesses of Nottingham were accustomed to take toll at several places in this neighbourhood, but that the burgesses of Retford put in their claim; in consequence of which, an action was brought by the burgesses of that place, when on the trial it was alleged that Richard Lachebere, Jonathan Cooke, Thomas Hocklethorne, and Robert of Manton, whilst they were bailiffs, took toll without their boundaries, viz. at Mattersey, of Robert le Caitere for horses and colts driving towards the fair of Stow, three shillings; of John Toppynage for the same, three shillings; and of Henry Warnford three shillings, as well as of divers other merchants then passing with merchandize. This the burgesses of Retford did not deny, but pleaded the liberties granted them in a former

---

\* The earliest instance of quartering arms is said to be found in the shield of this king, who emblazoned the symbols of France with those of England; and from this time, the scheme of quartering the shield by a cross, dividing it into four equal parts, became common, and made way for that multitudinous diversity of bearings, in many instances so puzzling to modern heralds.

charter. In order therefore to set the question at rest, and to enable the burgesses to pay the £10. a year fee-farm; and the twenty marks yearly to the burgesses of Nottingham, the king granted that they should have the return of all manner of writs, precepts, attachments, bills, mandates, &c. Also all manner of goods and chattels belonging to felons, fugitives, condemnation of felons *de se*; and goods and chattels waived; also all manner of fines, ransoms, and amerciaments whatsoever. He also granted them a fair in lieu of the one granted by Henry the third, in 1246, to be held in the eve, on the day, and the morrow of St. Gregory the bishop, and for five days following, with all the liberties and free customs of the said fair. Another fair was also granted by the same king in 1373, to be held yearly, for four days, before the feast of St. Margaret, the day of the feast, and the day after.

In 1424, King Henry the sixth confirmed most of the before mentioned grants, &c. and also of his royal will and favour, further gave unto the bailiffs and burgesses a court of record for the relief of complaints, and also of all manner of pleas of debt, accounts, covenants, trespasses as well by force and arms as otherwise done, and other contracts, causes, and matters whatsoever within the town aforesaid, to whatsoever sum the aforesaid debts, &c. may amount. He also granted them the use of the office of escheator and

clerk of the market, and also the clerk of assay. And lastly granted to them a fair yearly, for four days, viz. on the eve, and the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, and for two days immediately following the same. All of which charters, grants, &c. were allowed by the several kings until the time of James the first, who not only confirmed the same, but also incorporated the Borough anew, in form and manner following.

CHARTER OF JAMES I.

**JAMES**, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. To all to whom these present Letters shall come GREETING.

**Whereas** our town of East Retford in the county of Nottingham, is a town very ancient and populous. And the burgesses of the said town, sometimes by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham; and sometimes by the name of the burgesses of the town of East Retford, and sometimes by other names, divers liberties, franchises, customs, privileges, and other hereditaments, had, used, and enjoyed, and they have, use, and enjoy, as well by divers charters and letters patent of divers of our forefathers and ancestors, late kings and queens of England, as by reason of divers prescriptions and customs in the same town had and used.

**And whereas** our beloved subjects, late bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, have us humbly petitioned, as far as we to the same bailiffs and burgesses of our town aforesaid, our royal grace and bounty in this behalf will shew or extend.

And for that, we, for the better government, rule and improvement of the same town, the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford aforesaid, in one body corporate and politic, by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, by our letters patent, to make, restore, constitute, but not to new create, we will dignify with augmentation, and addition of certain liberties, privileges, immunities, and franchises, as by us better to be done and made shall be seen expedient.

We are therefore willing that amongst other things for ever continually shall be had one certain and undoubted measure, in the same town, of, and for, the keeping of our peace, and rule, and government, of our people there inhabiting, and of other things from thence resulting. And so as that town in all future times for ever may be, and remain, a town of peace and quietude, to the dread and terror of evil delinquents, and reward of the good; and also that our peace as to other acts of justice and good government there may be better kept; and also hoping that if the said bailiffs and burgesses of the said town and their successors shall from our grant enjoy more extensive authorities, liberties, and privileges; then that for the services which we for ourselves, our heirs, and successors, can cause to happen or be exhibited, they may think themselves more particularly and strongly obliged of our special favour, certain knowledge, and mere motion. we will ordain, constitute, declare, and grant, and by these presents, do for us, and our heirs, and successors, will order, constitute, declare and grant, that the said town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, may, and shall be, and remain, amongst other things for ever a free town of itself.

And that the bailiffs and burgesses of the aforesaid town and their successors, amongst other matters, for

ever may be, and shall be, by virtue of these presents, one body corporate and politic, in matter, deed, and name, by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, and they by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, one body corporate and politic, in matter, deed, and name, really and perfectly for us, our heirs, and successors, we do make, erect, ordain, constitute, ratify, confirm, and declare by these presents, and that by the same name they may have perpetual succession. And that they by the name of the bailiffs and burgesses, of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, may be and shall be at all times for ever, proper persons and capable in law, as a body corporate and politic. And capable in law to have, demand, receive, possess, enjoy, and keep the lands, tenements, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, franchises, and hereditaments whatsoever, and of whatsoever name, kind, nature, quality, or shape, they may be to them and their successors in fee and for ever, or for term of life or lives, year or years, or otherwise, and in any other manner. And also the goods and chattels, and whatsoever other things, of whatsoever kind, name, nature, quality, or shape they may be. And also to give, grant, demise, alien, assign, and dispose of the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and all and singular other matters and things to do, and execute, by the name aforesaid. And that by the same name of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, to plead and answer, to be impleaded and answered, defend and be defended, they ought, and may be able, in whatsoever courts and places, and before whatsoever judge and justices, and other persons and officers of us, and our heirs and successors, in all and singular, actions, pleas, suits, complaints, causes, matters, and demands whatsoever, and



of whatsoever kind, nature, quality, or shape they may or shall be, in the same manner and form as any other of our loyal subjects within our kingdom of England, or any other body corporate and politic of this kingdom of England, as proper persons, and capable in law to have, perceive, receive, possess, enjoy, retain, and give, grant, demise, alien, assign, and dispose, plead, and answer to be impleaded, and to be answered, defend and make defence, permit or be able to execute.

And that the bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, amongst other things shall for ever have a common seal, for whatsoever causes and businesses of them and their successors may require to be transacted. And that it may be and shall be lawful to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the said town, and their successors, that seal at their pleasure from time to time to destroy, change, and make new, as to them shall appear better to be made and done.

And further, we will and by these presents, for our heirs and successors, we grant that amongst other things for ever, may and shall be within the aforesaid town, chief magistrates of the burgesses of the town aforesaid, to be chosen in the manner in these presents undermentioned, of whom one shall be, and be called senior bailiff of the aforesaid town, and the other shall be, and be called junior bailiff of the same town. And that there may be and shall be within the aforesaid town, twelve of the burgesses of the aforesaid town, to be chosen in the manner in these presents undermentioned, who shall be, and shall be called aldermen of the aforesaid town.

And we will and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant that the aforesaid bailiffs, and twelve aldermen of the town aforesaid, for the time being, shall be from time to time of common council of the town aforesaid.

And that the aldermen of the aforesaid town, shall

be from time to time ajding and assisting to the bailiffs of the said town, for the time being, in all causes, matters, and things touching or concerning the said town.

And further, we will and by these presents, for us our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the aforesaid town, and their successors, that the bailiffs and aldermen of the aforesaid town, or the major part of them, of whom we will that there be two bailiffs of the aforesaid town, for the time being, on public notice thereof to be given to this society, may have, and shall have, full power and authority of instituting, constituting, ordaining, and making from time to time laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees, and reasonable ordinances in writing, which to them or the major part of them. Of whom we will that there be two bailiffs of the aforesaid town for the time being, may according to their sound directions appear to be good, wholesome, useful, honest, and necessary, for the good rule and government of the aforesaid town. And of all and singular the officers, ministers, artificers, inhabitants, and residents whomsoever, of the said town, for the time being, and for a declaration in what manner and order the same bailiffs and aldermen, and all and singular, officers and ministers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants, and residents, of the aforesaid town, in their offices, functions, services, trades, and businesses, within the aforesaid town and liberty, and the precinct thereof, for the time being, themselves demean, behave, and be used, for the further good, public, common, utility, and good government of the aforesaid town, and the victualling thereof, and all other matters and things touching, or in anywise concerning, the aforesaid town.

And that they the bailiffs and aldermen of the same town, for the time being, or the major part of them, of whom we will that there be two bailiffs of the afore-

said town, for the time being, as often as the laws, statutes, acts, ordinances, and constitutions of this sort, they shall institute, make, ordain, or establish, in manner aforesaid, and such pains, punishments, and penalties, by imprisonment of the body, or by fines, amerciaments, or either of them, towards and upon all delinquents, against the laws, acts, ordinances, and constitutions of this kind, or any of them, or any other laws, ordinances, and constitutions, which shall appear to be better, to make, ordain, limit, and provide. And the same fines and amerciaments they may be able to levy and have, to the use of the aforesaid bailiffs and burgesses of the aforesaid town, and their successors, without any hindrance of us, our heirs, and successors, or of any officers or ministers of us, our heirs, and successors, and without any account to us, our heirs, and successors, to be therefore given. All which laws, ordinances, and constitutions so as aforesaid, we will to be fulfilled and observed under the penalties therein contained, so as the laws, ordinations, institutions, constitutions, imprisonments, fines, and amerciaments of this kind shall be reasonable, and that they be not repugnant or contrary to the laws, statutes, customs, or acts of our kingdom of England.

And for the better execution of our will and grant in this behalf, we assign, nominate, create, appoint, and make, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, create, appoint, and make our well beloved William Thornton, to be our present senior bailiff of the town aforesaid, and Nicholas Watson to be our present junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, willing that the same William and Nicholas shall continue in the office aforesaid, from the date of these presents until the feast of Saint Michael the archangel next ensuing, and until other chief magistrates of the burgesses of the aforesaid town, to those offices shall in due manner be elected,

perfected, and sworn, according to the ordinations and provisions in these presents under, expressed and declared, if the same William Thornton and Nicholas Watson shall so long live.

And we further will, and by these presents, for us, and our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the bailiffs and burgesses of the same town for the time being, when to them, or the major part of them, shall seem expedient, upon public notice thereof to be given, they may be able to convoke and assemble themselves in some convenient place within the same town, and that the said bailiffs and burgesses so assembled and convoked, or the major part of them may chuse, nominate, and constitute, twelve of the honest burgesses of the aforesaid town, to be and be made aldermen of the same town, which said twelve aldermen so as aforesaid, to be elected, nominated, and constituted, as aldermen of the same town, upon their corporal oath on the holy evangelist of God, before the bailiffs of the same town, for the time being, to the office of aldermen of the aforesaid town, well and faithfully shall execute and perform, and every of them will perform. And after oath so made, the office of aldermen of the aforesaid town shall manage and execute during their natural lives, and during the natural life of every of them, unless in the mean time for any reasonable cause from that office of aldermen of the same town, they, or any of them, aldermen of the same town, they or any of them shall be amoved. And that the said aldermen so as aforesaid elected, nominated, constituted, and sworn, so long as in the office of aldermen they shall happen, to be shall be of common council of the same town, and shall be from time to time assisting, and aiding to, the bailiffs of the same town, for the time being, in all things, causes, and matters

whatsoever, in any manner touching or concerning the said town.

And further, we will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the bailiffs and aldermen of the aforesaid town, for the time being, or the major part of them, for all future times for ever, may have, and shall have power and authority of chusing and nominating, and that they may be able to chuse and nominate yearly and every year for ever, on the first Monday which shall first fall out, or happen in the month of August, one of the aldermen of the town aforesaid for the time being, who shall be senior bailiff of the aforesaid town. And that he, after he shall have been so as aforesaid elected and nominated as senior bailiff of the aforesaid ancient town, shall be admitted to execute that office on his corporal oath, on the feast of St. Michael the archangel, then next following the election and nomination aforesaid, before their last predecessors, bailiffs of the town aforesaid, to that office rightly, well, and faithfully, in all things touching the execution of that office, shall perform. And that after this kind of oath so to be made the office of senior bailiff of the aforesaid town, for one whole year, then next following, he shall be able to execute. And from thence until one other the aldermen of the aforesaid town, to that office in due manner shall have been elected, perfected, and sworn, according to the ordinations and provisions in these presents expressed and declared.

And we further will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant the aforesaid bailiffs and burgesses of the aforesaid town, and their successors, that the bailiffs and aldermen of the aforesaid town, for the time being, and their successors, or the major part of them, yearly and every year, for

ever, on the first Monday which shall first fall out, or happen in the month of August, may nominate two of the burgesses of the same town, to the end that the bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses of the aforesaid town, for the time being, or the major part of them, one of the same two burgesses of the aforesaid town, so named as junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, they shall be able to chuse and perfect, and after this kind of nomination by the aforesaid bailiffs and aldermen, or the major part of them, so as aforesaid made, it is and shall be lawful for the aforesaid bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses of the aforesaid town, or the major part of them, one of the same two burgesses so as aforesaid named as junior bailiff, and for junior bailiff of the same town, to name, chuse, and appoint. And that he who as junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, shall be as aforesaid, named and elected on his corporal oath, on the feast of St. Michael the archangel, then next following, the election and nomination aforesaid, before the last bailiffs of the aforesaid town, their predecessors, to that office of junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, rightly, well, and faithfully, in all things touching the execution of that office, shall perform; and that after this kind of oath so made, the office of junior bailiff of that town, for one whole year from thence next following, shall be able to execute, and from thence until one other burgess of the town aforesaid, to that office of junior bailiff of the town aforesaid, shall in due manner be elected, appointed, and sworn, according to the ordinations and provisions in these presents expressed and declared.

And furthermore we will and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that if it shall happen the senior bailiff and junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, or either of them, any time within one year after that to the office of se-

nior bailiff or junior bailiff of the aforesaid town, so as aforesaid, shall have been appointed and sworn, to die, or be amoved from that office, that then, and as often election shall be made of another person or other persons, to supply the aforesaid office or place of senior bailiff and junior bailiff of the town aforesaid, or either of them so being dead or amoved according to the ordinations and provisions in these presents above declared, and that he or they so as aforesaid elected and appointed into the office or offices of senior bailiff and junior bailiff of the town aforesaid, that office he or they shall have and exercise during the residue of the same year, the corporal oath in form aforesaid, first made before one other surviving bailiff of the aforesaid town, and three or more aldermen of the same town, or if both the bailiffs shall be dead, then before three or more aldermen of the same town for the time being, and so as often as such cases shall so happen.

And further we will, that whenever it shall happen any one of the aforesaid aldermen of the common council, of the town aforesaid, for the time being, to die or be amoved from his office, that then and as often the bailiffs and residue of the aldermen of common council, of the town aforesaid, then remaining or surviving, or the major part of them, two of the burgesses of the town aforesaid, may nominate to the end, that the bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses of the town aforesaid, for the time being, or the major part of them, one of the same two burgesses of the town aforesaid, so named, they may be able to chuse and appoint as an alderman of the same town, and that after such manner of appointment by the said bailiffs and aldermen, or the major part of them, so as aforesaid made, it shall and may be lawful to the aforesaid bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses of the town aforesaid, or the major part of them, one of the same two burgesses so as aforesaid, named as aldermen and for aldermen of

the same town, in the place of such aldermen as may happen to die or be amoved, to chuse, name, and appoint, to supply the aforesaid number of twelve aldermen of common council, of the town aforesaid; and that he, so as aforesaid, to the office of aldermen of the town aforesaid, to be elected, appointed, and made, before the bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, on his corporal oath, the office of aldermen of common council of the town aforesaid, well and faithfully to execute, shall be of the number aforesaid; of twelve aldermen of common council of the town aforesaid, and this from time to time, as often as such cases may happen.

And further we will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, and steward of the court of the town aforesaid, for the time being, from time to time, for ever, may be and shall be our justices, and each of them may be and shall be a justice of us, our heirs, and successors, to preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, within the same town, liberty, and precinct thereof. And also the ordinances concerning artificers and labourers, weights and measures, within the town aforesaid and liberties, and precincts of the same, to preserve, correct, or cause to be kept and corrected. And that the said bailiffs and steward of the court of the town aforesaid, for the time being, or any two of them, from time to time for ever, shall have full power and authority to enquire concerning all trespasses, misprisons, and other inferior misdeeds and articles within the town aforesaid, and liberty and precinct of the same, done, moved, or perpetrated, which before the keepers and justices of the peace, in any other county of our kingdom of England, by the laws and statutes of the same kingdom, as justices of the peace,



can or ought to be enquired into. And that no justice of peace of us, our heirs, and successors, of the said county of Nottingham, the town of East Retford, liberties, and precincts of the same, shall in any manner enter upon to do any thing there which the said justices of peace of our town aforesaid, by virtue of these our letters patents, can or ought to do, yet so as that to the determination of any sentence of murder or felony, or any other matter touching loss of life or member within the town aforesaid, or liberty, or precinct of the same, without special command of us, our heirs, or successors in any manner hereafter do proceed.

And further we will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the bailiffs and steward of the court of the town aforesaid, for the time being so as aforesaid, and being in the office of justice of peace, or any two of them, by their warrant in writing, subscribed and sealed, and signed with their own proper hands, may be able to send all such persons who hereafter shall be taken, arrested, attached, or found in the aforesaid town of East Retford, or liberty, or precinct of the same, for promotion of murder, felony, manslaughter, made or to be made, or for suspicion of felony, to the common goal of our county of Nottingham, there to stay to be tried and answer for their delinquents, before the judges of us, our heirs, and successors, to hear and determine, or our justices to deliver our goal in the said county of Nottingham, assigned or to be assigned.

We willing, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, commanding as well the sheriff of the county of Nottingham aforesaid, as the keeper of the common goal of the same county of Nottingham, for the time being, that they and each of them upon such

kind of warrant by the aforesaid justices of the peace, within the town of East Retford aforesaid, for the time being, or any two of them, to be made, and to them, or either of them to be directed, all such persons so by the said justices of the peace, within the town aforesaid, hereafter to be taken, arrested, attached, or found in the aforesaid town of East Retford, liberties, and precincts thereof, for promotion of murder, manslaughter, robbery, or other felony, made or to be made, for our suspicion of felony, and to the common goal of the aforesaid county of Nottingham, so as aforesaid, shall send, receive, and safe keep there, to stay, to be tried, and answer before the judges of us, our heirs, and successors, to hear and determine, or justices to deliver our goal of the county aforesaid, for the time being, assigned or to be assigned. And these our letters patents on the inrollment thereof, shall be to the said sheriff and keeper of the common goal of the county of Nottingham aforesaid, for the time being, therefore a sufficient warrant and discharge of this behalf.

And further we will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the bailiffs and aldermen of the same town, for the time being, or the major part of them, from time to time for ever, may be able to chuse, nominate, constitute one honest man to be instructed in the law of England and to be steward of the court of the same town, to make and execute all things, which to the office of steward of the court of the town aforesaid, do belong to be made, which said steward so as aforesaid, to be elected, named, and constituted, before whom to his office of steward of the court of the town aforesaid, shall be admitted to execute on his corporal oath, before the bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, to that office of steward of the court of the town aforesaid, in all things touching that office,

he shall well and faithfully perform and execute. And that after the oath aforesaid, so made, the office of steward in the court of the town aforesaid, he shall be able to execute and exercise during the pleasure of the bailiffs and aldermen of the same town, for the time being, or the major part of them.

And further we will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, that the steward of the court of the town aforesaid, for the time being, from time to time for ever, as often as he shall see expedient, and with the assent and consent of the bailiffs and aldermen of the town aforesaid, for the time being, or the major part of them, shall be able to make his sufficient deputy, to make and execute, all and singular, those things which the steward of the court of the town aforesaid, can make or execute in the court aforesaid; his corporal oath being first made before the bailiffs of the town aforesaid, for the time being, for the due execution of that office. And that after the oath aforesaid so made, the office aforesaid he shall be able to execute and exercise during the pleasure of the bailiffs and aldermen of the same town, for the time being, or the major part of them.

And whereas, the Lord Henry the sixth, late king of England, by certain letters patents, sealed with the great seal of England, bearing date, Westminster, the twenty-seventh day of May, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, granted to the bailiffs and burgesses of the said town of East Retford, their heirs and successors, that they should have power to hear and determine in the court of the town aforesaid, before their steward of the same court, for the time being; as for complaints in the same court in any manner to be relieved, pleas of debt, account, covenant, trespasses, as well by force and arms as otherwise, to be made and

other contracts, causes, and matters, whatsoever within the town aforesaid; issuing to whatsoever sum the aforesaid debt, account, or damage, or trespass, whatsoever may be or concern. And that they shall have power all persons whomsoever against whom complaints of this kind to be relieved shall happen, or be inhabitants within the same town of East Retford, or not by pretence of complaints aforesaid, in the said court to be relieved, or within the same town, shall happen to be found by their bodies to attach; and them in the same court in pleading to bring the parties against those complaining to answer, concerning all those things which upon complaint of this kind, to him in this behalf, shall happen to be adjudged, as by the same letters patents amongst other things may more fully appear.

And whereas the said court afterwards, sometimes before the bailiffs, and sometimes before the steward of the town aforesaid, and sometimes before others, hath been accustomed to be held and kept, by reason whereof, great contentions and discords arose within the said town, before whom that court might or ought to be held. We therefore willing, amongst other things, for ever, that all contentions, differences, and discords, for and concerning keeping the court aforesaid, may be thoroughly abolished, and that one certain and undoubted method in the same town may be for ever had, of any for keeping the court aforesaid, and before whom the said court shall hereafter be held, of our special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion,

We will and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town of East Retford aforesaid, and their successors, that they and their successors, amongst other things, for ever, shall have and keep, and shall be able to have and keep, within the town aforesaid,

one court of record, on every monday, in every third week, in every year, for ever, or oftener if they will, before the bailiffs of the same town, with the assistance of the steward of the court of the town aforesaid, or his deputy steward, for the time being, or before either of the bailiffs, with the assistance of the steward of the court of the same town, or his deputy steward, for the time being, to be held. And that they may hold in that court before the bailiffs, with the assistance of the steward of the court of the same town, or his deputy steward, for the time being, or before either of the bailiffs, with the assistance of the steward of the court of the same town, or his deputy steward, for the time being, for complaints in the said court to be relieved, and for all, and all manner of pleas of debt, account, covenant, trespass, as well by force or arms as otherwise made, and other contracts, causes, and matters whatsoever, within the town aforesaid, issuing to whatsoever sum the aforesaid debt, account, trespass, or damage shall be or concern. And that they shall have power, all persons whatsoever, against whom complaints of this kind to be relieved, shall happen, if they shall be inhabitants within the same town of East Retford, (or not by pretence the complaints aforesaid, against those persons in the said court to be relieved,) by their bodies to arrest, and them in the same court in pleading, to bring the parties against those complaining, to answer concerning all that which upon this kind of complaint against them in this behalf shall happen, to be adjudged in as ample manner and form, as in the said town hath heretofore been used, by the aforesaid letters patents, or any other thing, cause, custom, or matter whatsoever, heretofore had, made, granted, in anywise notwithstanding.

And further of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion; we grant and confirm to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid; and

their successors, all, and all manner of franchises, liberties, and authorities, exemptions, discharges, jurisdictions, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, which the bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid now have, hold, use, and enjoy, or which any of them, or their predecessors, by whatsoever name or names incorporated, or by whatsoever incorporation they have heretofore had, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have, use, or enjoy, to themselves and their successors, of estates of inheritance, by reason or pretence of any charter, or letters patent, by any of our forefathers, or ancestors, late kings or queens of England, in any manner heretofore made, confirmed, or granted, or by any other lawful means, right, title, custom, use, or prescription, heretofore lawfully used, had, or accustomed; although they have not been heretofore by them, or any of them, used, or have been abused, or ill used, or discontinued; and are, or shall have been, by them, or any of them, or any other forfeited or destroyed, to have, hold, and enjoy, to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, for ever, and yielding and paying therefore to our heirs and successors, yearly, all such rents, services, sums of money, and demands, whatsoever, as heretofore, for the same have been accustomed to be rendered, or paid, or they ought to render, or pay. Wherefore we will, and do firmly command, enjoin, for us, our heirs, and successors, that the aforesaid bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, and their successors, shall have, hold, use, and enjoy, and may be able to have, hold, use, and enjoy for ever, all liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, franchises, exemptions, and discharges aforesaid, according to the tenor and effect of these our letters patents, without let or hindrance; of us, our heirs, and successors, judges, sheriffs, or other bailiffs, and ministers of us, our heirs, and successors, whomsoever. We unwilling,

that the same bailiffs, and aldermen, and men of the town aforesaid, or any of them, or any other, nor any burgess of the town aforesaid, by reason of the premises, or any of them, by us, or by our heirs, judges, sheriffs, escheators, clerks of market, or other bailiffs, or ministers, of us, our heirs, or successors, whomsoever, shall be therefore hindred, molested, vexed, or burthened, or in any manner disturbed. We willing, and by these presents, commanding and charging, as well our treasurer, chancellor, and barons, of our exchequer at Westminster, and other judges, of us, our heirs, and successors, as our attorney and solicitor general for the time being, and each of them, and all other, our officers, and ministers, whomsoever, that neither they, or any of them, or any other writ or summons of *quo warranto*, or any other, our writ, or writs, or process whatsoever, against the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, or any of them, or any other, for any causes, things, matters, offences, claimed, or usurped, or any of them, for themselves, or any of them, due, claimed, used, attempted, had, or usurped, before the day of making, of these presents, be prosecuted, or continued, or shall make, or cause to be prosecuted, or continued. We being also willing, that the bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, or any of them, by any other, or any other judge, officer, or minister aforesaid, in, or for, debt, evil use, or abuse of any other liberties, franchises, or jurisdictions, within the town aforesaid, limits, or precincts of the same, before the day of making of these our letters patents, shall not be in anywise molested or hindered, or to these, or any of them shall be compelled to answer. We will also, and by these presents, do grant to the said bailiffs and burgesses of the town aforesaid, that they may have, and shall have these our letters patents, under our great seal of England, in due manner made and sealed,

without fine or fee, great or little, to us in our Hana-  
per, or elsewhere, to our use for the same, in any man-  
ner to be rendered, paid, or made, to the end that ex-  
press mention concerning the true yearly value, or  
concerning the certainty of the premises, or either of  
them, or concerning other gifts, or grants by us, or by  
of any our forefathers and predecessors, to the said bai-  
liffs and burgesses before their times made in these pre-  
sents, doth in no wise appear to be made, or for any  
statute, act, ordination, provision, proclamation, or  
restriction, to the contrary thereof, heretofore had,  
made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other  
thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, in anywise not-  
withstanding.

In ~~Witness~~ whereof, these our letters we cause to  
be made patents. Witness myself, at Westminster, the  
twenty-fifth day of November, in the fifth year of our  
reign over England, France, and Ireland, and of Scot-  
land the forty-first.

By writ of Privy Seal, &c.

LUKYN.



## CHAP. IV.

### **State of the Representation—Contested Elections —Election of 1826—List of Representatives.**

---

#### **STATE OF THE REPRESENTATION.**

THE British Parliament is generally supposed to date its origin from the year 1116, but at that time it consisted only of the ancient barons, who appeared at Westminster clad in armour, with swords by their sides. In 1265 however, a parliament assembled on the 20th of January, the members of which consisted of two knights from each shire, and of deputies from the larger order of Boroughs.

In process of time, from various causes, those of the inferior Boroughs became privileged like the larger ones; and other towns, from interest, and an increase in population, rank, wealth, &c. were incorporated and endowed with power to return persons of talent and information, to point out the wants, and seek the redress of those grievances under which their constituents laboured, as well as to assist in legislating for the nation

at large ; thus the House of Commons became the connecting link in the chain which unites the commonalty with the nobles of the land, by defending the rights and privileges of all classes of his majesty's subjects, and adding strength and security to the throne, by its counsel, and munificent votes of supply.

From the most authentic documents, it appears that Retford first sent representatives to the National Senate, in the year 1315, being the ninth of Edward the second, but in the year 1330, they petitioned parliament at Westminster, after the feast of St. Katharine, concerning pardon of their burgesses there, by reason of their poverty,\* which was granted, and its right lay dormant until 1571, (the thirteenth of Queen Elizabeth,) when it again exercised its privilege, although on the meeting of the house, the right was questioned, and the Treasurer was appointed to confer with the Attorney and Solicitor General concerning the legality of the return ; no minutes of such conference are now in existence, and from that time, until the year 1827, it continued to enjoy its elective franchise in a free and uninterrupted manner.

This small Borough, like a number of others of a

---

\* At that period it was usual for Boroughs to choose representatives from out their own body, and not of strangers or country gentlemen ; and many of these Boroughs were frequently so poor as to be unable to pay the members their wages or expenses ; even though the allowance was only made for a few days.

similar description, was for a series of years, a scene of dissension from parliamentary and other causes, which need not now be enumerated, and during the eighteenth century, the interference of the House of Commons, to determine the extent of the rights of the burgesses, and the manner in which its representatives should be chosen, was not unfrequently called for. The court of King's Bench too, has been occupied nearly as often as the House of Commons, on *mandamus* motions, and informations in the nature of *quo warranto*, by which the corporation have been compelled to admit several to their freedom, who have been arbitrarily kept out of their right, and ousted others who had been illegally admitted.

Mr. Oldfield, in his history of the English Boroughs, observes as follows, "It appears by the Journals of the House of Commons, that the Committees of that House have been occupied no less than *seven times* for several weeks together, within the last century, in determining what constitutes a freeman in this little Borough, and have left it as much open to contention and litigation as they found it. It is not yet decided whether the son of a freeman born *out of the Borough*, has an equal right to be admitted with the son of a freeman born *in the Borough*, upon a claim of birth-right, nor whether the *apprentice to a journeyman shoemaker*, (which description of persons constitutes a majority of the electors,) has the same right to his free-

dom as the *apprentice to a master shoemaker*, upon a claim of servitude."

## CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

From the year 1571 to 1700, only three petitions, complaining of undue returns, were presented to the House of Commons, on two of which no report was made, and the other was reported to be in favour of the sitting members. The first petition to which reference is here made was that of Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bart. in 1700, against the return of Thomas White, Esq. on account of undue practices in the returning officers, when Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, that the first question was the right of election. The committee resolved "that the right of electing members to serve in Parliament for this Borough is in the burgesses *non-resident*, as well as in those resident within the Borough. That Thomas White, Esq. is not duly elected. That it is the opinion of the committee that Sir Willoughby Hickman is duly elected a burgess of this Borough."

In 1702 another petition was presented by Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bart. and William Levinz, Esq. against the return of John Thornhaugh and Thomas White, Esqrs. complaining of arbitrary and illegal power having been exercised by the bailiffs. Sir Rowland Gwynn reported, "That the right of election was agreed to be in the freemen and burgesses, but the

question was *whether the younger sons of freemen* had a right to demand their freedom? When the committee resolved "That the *younger sons of the freemen of this Borough have not a right to demand their freedom of this Borough.*" And "That the sitting members are duly elected."

In the succeeding Parliament, the same gentlemen petitioned the House against the return of the old members, upon the same grounds, when the chairman, (Mr. Bromley,) reported from the committee "That the right of election was agreed to be in the bailiffs and burgesses," but they did not agree how they were qualified to be burgesses. The committee afterwards came to the following decision "That *all the sons of freemen of this Borough have a right to their freedom,*" and "that the petitioners are duly elected."

In 1705, Sir Hardolph Wasteneys, Bart. and Robert Molesworth, Esq. petitioned against the return of Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bart. and William Levinz, Esq. who had been elected on the assumption of the last parliamentary committee,—“that all the sons of freemen have a right to their freedom.” Mr. Compton (the chairman) reported “That the right of election was agreed to be in the bailiffs and burgesses, or freemen.” The points were, 1st. Who had a right to the freedom? And 2ndly. What power the Corporation has to make persons, living out of the Borough, free, by redemption? The counsel for the petitioners, to

prove the custom of the Borough making foreigners free, produced the following ordinance agreed upon by the Corporation immediately after the granting of the last charter, dated September 6th, of the sixth of James the first.

“It is ordered, established, and decreed, that all and every such as shall be made free within the town by redemption, shall compound and agree with Mr. Bailiffs, and the aldermen of the town for their freedom, and that no foreigner shall be made free by redemption under 20s. to be paid to the town's chamber; 20d. to Mr. Bailiffs; 20d. to the chamberlains; 12d. to the deputy steward or town clerk; 8d. to the sergeant at mace; and 12d. to the relief of the poor, and that at the next court, after the said freedom granted, the party shall be brought in by the chamberlains, and there take the oath appointed for that purpose.” Also another ordinance made in 1624,—“for disabling the burgesses to vote at any election or elections whatsoever within the Borough, who shall remove his dwelling out of the Borough, and continue so for one whole year, provided in case he did return again, and live within the Borough, he should vote, while he lived therein.”

After considerable deliberations the committee came to the following resolution, “That the right of electing burgesses, to serve in Parliament for this borough, is in such freemen only, as have a right to their freedom by birth, as eldest sons of freemen, or by serving

seven years apprenticeship, or have it by redemption, whether inhabiting or not inhabiting, in the said Borough, at the time of their being made free." They also declared the election of the sitting members to be void, and the petitioners to be duly elected.

Another petition was presented by Willoughby Hickman and Brian Cooke, Esqrs. in 1710, against the return of Thomas White and Thomas Westby, Esqrs. The Committee reported to the same effect as in the preceding case, with exception of the words "*not inhabiting*," and unseated the members, declaring that the petitioners were duly elected.

At the general election, in 1796, William Petrie, Esq. Sir Wharton Amcotts, and John Blackburn, Esq. were candidates, when the two former, *for obvious reasons*, were declared duly elected, the state of the poll being

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| For William Petrie, Esq.....  | 82 |
| Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bart.... | 68 |
| John Blackburn, Esq.....      | 60 |

This issue being in opposition to the views of the Corporate Body, it was determined to make a number of redemption freemen, to counterbalance the influence obtained by the "*lovers of independance*," and thirty-eight of the most respectable inhabitants of the town were sworn in as honorary freemen.

This measure led to a long and expensive law suit, at the head of which was a person of the name of

Bowles, who brought the question respecting the power of the bailiffs and aldermen to make these honorary burgesses, by *quo warranto*, into the Court of King's Bench, when, in consequence of the junior Bailiff not having assented to the measure at the time when they were admitted as freemen, they were all determined to be illegal, and judgment of ouster was issued against five aldermen, and the whole number of honorary freemen.

At the next general election in 1802, Mr. Bowles came forward, and, from the victory which he had achieved in favour of "birthright and servitude," was quite confident of success. But alas! how short sighted is man, and how unstable are all terrestrial concerns. Mr. Bowles, and his friend Mr. Bonham, soon found out to their cost, that no less than forty-five individuals who had promised them their support and interest, actually voted for the other candidates, who were both of them proposed by the individual who had been the chief promoter of initiating the honorary burgesses. Here we have a fine specimen of the *gratitude* evinced by the supporters of "birthright and servitude," to one who had put himself at their head, fought their battles, and eventually succeeded in overturning all the machinations of those to whom they were politically opposed. Mr. Oldfield laments that he could not furnish his readers with a list of their names, as a beacon to warn future candidates from becoming a prey to such fraud and treachery; under this disad-



vantage I do not labour, but as the finger of public scorn has already been pointed at them, I refrain from printing the list of such worthless characters. The state of the poll was as under,—

For Robert Crawford, Esq. ....86

John Jaffray, Esq. ....77

William Bowles, Esq. ....65

Henry Bonham, Esq. ....59

The unlooked-for issue of this contest laid the foundation of a petition to the House of Commons, grounded upon a charge against John Thornton and George Barker, gent. for having as the petitioners stated, usurped the office of bailiffs, and illegally admitted several to their freedom who had no right, and rejected several who had a right, and who claimed to be admitted. The chairman of the committee reported in favour of the sitting members.

At the next general election in 1806, three candidates offered themselves, these were General Robert Crawford, Thomas Hughan, Esq. and Sir John Ingilby, Bart. when the two former were declared duly elected. This Parliament was but of short duration, and on a change of ministry taking place early in the ensuing year, its usual concomitant—a general election, was again the order of the day. Three candidates presented themselves to the burgesses, namely, General Charles Crawford, W. Ingilby, Esq. and Thomas Hughan, Esq. when the two former were returned, the state of the poll being,

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| For General Crawford, ..... | 88 |
| William Ingilby, Esq. ....  | 77 |
| Thomas Hughan, Esq. ....    | 75 |

The jockeyship displayed on this occasion was very little inferior to that at Bowles's election ; the "*independents* !" however returned one of their own choice, but *how*, or by what means, is quite another matter. Gratitude and integrity were sadly out of fashion !

From the vicinity of Retford to the domains of several illustrious noblemen, it might be expected some of them would put in a kind of claim for the suffrages of the burgesses. Accordingly some of the Dukes of Newcastle have possessed considerable influence here, which has given great umbrage, and been strongly animadverted upon by those politically opposed to that party. But I would ask, Has the Borough been better represented since that time when, as Oldfield states, "the *independent* party had the triumph of returning both members against the Duke of Newcastle's interest ?" Have the burgesses been less subject to corruption and bribery under their new patron ? And, do they not generally regret being led away by the specious arguments of such men as Mr. Oldfield ? He, who in speaking of the acts and sentiments of the "Newcastle party" merely because they were *tories*, and opposed to the political dogmas of the party whose advocate he was, could at once sanction a candidate recommended by Earl Fitzwilliam,—nay further, could

not see the least harm in a whig nobleman nominating both the members for a Borough, with whom he had not the remotest connection, and in which he never expended a single shilling. Against the venerable Earl Fitzwilliam, the writer begs leave to disclaim all animosity, believing his Lordship to be a most upright and amiable nobleman; nevertheless he is bound by a sense of justice to refute the imputations put forth by Mr. Oldfield; because, if one nobleman's interference was blameable, so was the other; if censure was due to one, it was equally so to the other, bearing in mind the old adage that "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

#### THE ELECTION OF 1826.

Since the contest of 1802, interference of parliament has never been called for, until the year 1826. For several months previous to, and during the election, party spirit was greatly excited against those burgesses who had promised their votes to Sir R. L. Dundas, and W. B. Wrightson, Esq. (who were opposed by Sir H. Wilson) so much so, that all civil authority was completely set at defiance, and the town overawed by a lawless and infuriated mob, whose zeal for the success of their favourite, prompted them to commit the most unjustifiable acts of outrage against all those who favoured, or were suspected of favouring the opposite party. On the day of election it was considered ne-

cessary by the municipal authorities, in order to secure the peace of the town, to call in the assistance of the military (who had previously been stationed at Gamston and Barnby Moor,) which had the effect contemplated by those who authorized the measure, and prevented the mob from putting their threats into actual execution.

The election took place on Friday, the 9th of June, 1826, and was adjourned at four o'clock to the following day: but when the court opened, in consequence of the military having been called in, on the previous evening, after the close of the poll, and being then stationed in the immediate neighbourhood, Sir H. W. Wilson protested against the whole of the proceedings, and declared it to be his determination to bring the matter before a committee of the House of Commons as soon as an opportunity presented itself. The state of the poll at its close was as follows.—

For William Battie Wrightson, Esq...120

Sir Robert L. Dundas, Kt. ....118

Sir Henry W. Wilson, Kt..... 53

Thus matters rested until the beginning of February, 1827, when Parliament assembled; Sir H. W. Wilson having entered into the recognizances usual upon such occasions, a committee was appointed to decide the question and report to the House. On the 4th of April they commenced with the examination of witnesses, and continued during the 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, when the case closed,

and the chairman (C. C. Western, Esq.) reported on the 1st of May, that the committee had determined that the sitting members were not duly elected; that the election was void; but that the allegation contained in the petition, against the returning officer was frivolous and vexatious. The chairman also stated "That the committee considered it their duty to direct the serious attention of the House to the corrupt state of the borough of East Retford. It appeared also to the committee, from the evidence of several witnesses, that, at elections of burgesses to serve in Parliament for this Borough, that it had been a notorious, long-continued, and general practice for the electors who voted for the successful candidates, to receive the sum of twenty guineas from each of them, so that those burgesses who voted for both the members have customarily received forty guineas for such exercise of their elective franchise, and that an expectation prevailed in the Borough that this custom would be acted upon at the last election, although they had not sufficient proof that such expectation was encouraged by the candidates then returned." He also requested to move "That the report, with the evidence taken before the committee, be printed; and that the Speaker do not issue his writ for the return of two burgesses to serve in Parliament for this Borough until the same shall have been taken into the consideration of the House."

On the 11th of June, 1827, the order of the day for

the consideration of the above report being read,—Mr. Tennyson moved, and, after considerable discussion, the House of Commons resolved,—“ That the corrupt state of the Borough of East Retford required the serious attention of the House.” On the same day Mr. Tennyson obtained leave to bring in a Bill “ for excluding the Borough of East Retford from electing burgesses to serve in Parliament, and to enable the town of Birmingham to return two representatives in lieu thereof.”

On the 22nd of the same month, this Bill was read a second time, but in consequence of the approaching prorogation (which took place on the 9th of July,) the subject was postponed to the next session; and on the 29th of June, the issue of the writ to East Retford was suspended accordingly.

On the 31st of January, 1828, the Bill was again introduced by Mr. Tennyson, and on the 25th of February was read a second time, and ordered to be committed; several witnesses were also summoned to attend the committee on the 3rd of March.

On the 3rd, 4th, and 7th of March, the committee examined evidence in support of the Bill, and heard counsel against it; and on the 10th the committee went through the Bill, *pro formâ*, and reported it to the House.

Mr. Tennyson on the 21st of March, moved the re-committal of the Bill, on the ground that the case

against the Borough had been established, to which motion the House agreed ; but on the question—that the Speaker should leave the chair, Mr. Nicholson Calvert moved—" That it be an instruction to the committee, that they have power to make provision for the prevention of bribery and corruption in the election of members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of East Retford, by extending the right of voting to the forty-shilling freeholders of the Hundred of Bassetlaw."

After debate, the House agreed to the instruction :

Ayes,.....157

Noes,.....121

Majority,..... 36

Mr. Tennyson afterwards moved the postponement of the committee from time to time, on the ground that,—as several members had appeared to agree to the instruction voted on the 25th of March, because it was proposed by the Bill for the disfranchisement of the Borough of Penryn, to transfer the elective franchise from that Borough to Manchester, it was expedient to delay the East Retford Bill until it could be ascertained whether the House of Lords would agree to that transfer.

On the 14th of May, the Earl of Carnarvon, who had the management, in the House of Lords, of the Bill for disfranchising Penryn, stated in his place, after evidence had been heard in support of it, that the nature

of that evidence was not such as would justify him in proposing to transfer the elective franchise from Penryn to Manchester, but that he should probably propose to open the right of voting to the freeholders of the adjacent Hundreds.

Accordingly, on the 19th of May, Mr. Tennyson moved the recommitment of the East Retford Bill in the House of Commons. Thereupon the House resolved itself into a committee, and Mr. N. Calvert, with the view of giving effect to the instruction of the 25th of March, moved, in the first place, to omit that portion of the preamble which recited the expediency of entirely excluding East Retford from returning representatives, and of substituting the town of Birmingham.

After a debate, in which Mr. N. Calvert, Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Lumley, Mr. Alderman Waithman, Lord Raneliffe, Sir George Phillips, Mr. Secretary Peel, Mr. Littleton, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Sturges Bourne, Lord Viscount Sandon, Mr. Secretary Huskisson, Lord William Powlett, and Mr. Williams Wynn, took part, the committee divided, when the numbers were:—

In favour of Mr. Calvert's motion, ..145

Against it, .....127

Majority, ..... 18

After this division, Mr. Calvert proposed to substitute for the words omitted in the preamble the words following:—

“ And whereas such bribery and corruption is likely



to continue to be practised in the said Borough in future, unless some means are taken to prevent the same; in order, therefore, to prevent such unlawful practices for the future, and that the said borough may henceforth be duly represented in parliament, &c." whereupon Mr. Secretary Huskisson moved, that all the words of the proposed amendment, after the word "future," be omitted.

Upon which it was moved and agreed, that the chairman should report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday the 2nd of June.

During the protracted debate which took place this evening, it was quite evident that either a misunderstanding, or a division, existed amongst the members of his Majesty's government, which in the sequel proved to be correct. Mr. Huskisson, on leaving the House of Commons, and in the heat of the moment, wrote to the Duke of Wellington, resigning (though in terms somewhat ambiguous) his situation as Secretary of State for the Colonial Department; this letter, the Duke thought proper to lay before his Majesty, and thus, as a late writer justly remarks, "before he knew where he was, he was out of office."

The resignation of Mr. Huskisson, was followed by the secession of some of his colleagues, consequently when the House assembled on the 2nd of June, long explanations were entered into (a recapitulation of which is unnecessary in this place) and the House

afterwards went into a committee on the Bill, when Mr. Huskisson again moved as an amendment that all the words after the word "future" be left out, on this the committee divided,

For the original motion,.....258

For the amendment,.....152

Majority,.....106

In another division, on the question of adjournment, the numbers were,

For the adjournment,.....221

Against it,.....24

Majority,.....197

After this division a desultory conversation took place, in which Sir John Sebright, Lord Nugent, Mr. Baring, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Spring Rice, Mr. Secretary Peel, and Lord Normanby, took part: Mr. Tennyson moved that the Bill be read that day six months; in opposition to that day se'nnight, when the Speaker stated that the honourable member was out of order, as the reading of the Bill that day six months would be tantamount to defeating it altogether.

On the 24th of June, Mr. Calvert moved for leave to bring in a Bill to disqualify certain voters of this Borough from voting in future for members to serve in parliament. On the question being put the House divided

For the motion,.....74

Against it,.....26

Majority,.....48

On the 26th, Mr. Calvert brought in the Bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on the 11th of July. A copy of the Bill, and notice of the intention to read it a second time, was ordered to be served upon the individuals whom it proposed to disfranchise.

On the 27th of June, Mr. Calvert moved the order of the day for the further consideration of the report, and in the discussion which followed, considerable warmth of temper was displayed on both sides of the House; several divisions were created by Mr. Tennyson and his friends, tending to defeat the measure, and, if possible, the ministry. The numbers on the respective divisions were as follows,—

*First Division.*—On Mr. Tennyson's motion to postpone the measure until the next session:—

For the motion,.....42

Against it,.....72

Majority against it, 30

*Second Division.*—On Lord Howick's motion, that it be an instruction to the committee to give the two members to Yorkshire; each Riding to return two members:—

Ayes,.....17

Noes,.....95

Majority against it, 78

*Third Division.*—On Mr. Alderman Wood's motion, in committee, to put an end to the Bill altogether:—

Ayes,.....14

Noes,.....95

Majority,.....80

*Fourth Division.*—On Lord John Russell's motion, for the absolute disfranchisement of East Retford:—

For the motion,.....43

Against it,.....108

Majority,.....65

On the 11th of July, the order of the day being read, for receiving the report of the committee. Mr. Calvert moved that it be deferred to that day se'nnight; and should the House be then sitting, he would move a further postponement so as to carry the Bill over the session.

The order of the day was also read for the second reading of the Freeman's disqualification Bill; Mr. Calvert, desiring that the two Bills should keep pace with each other, moved that it be read that day three months, which was agreed to. He likewise gave notice of his intention to move that the issuing of a writ for this Borough be deferred till next session.

On the 25th of July, Mr. Tennyson gave notice that he would, early in the next sessions, move for leave to bring in two Bills, one for the absolute disfranchisement of East Retford, and the other for transferring the franchise to Birmingham. On the 28th, the House adjourned.

Thus this question, which has been the fertile source

of so many angry contentions during this session, is still left undecided, to embroil the discussions of the next. It is, however, generally understood that ministers have come to a determination to extend the franchise to the Hundred of Bassettlaw. Indeed the statement of Mr. Peel, in the House of Commons, appears to be decisive on this particular head; speaking of the discussions which took place on the 19th of May, he observes, "On that night I came down to the House with the full impression that it was fully agreed amongst my colleagues, that the resolution proposed by the Hon. Member for Hertford (Mr. N. Calvert,) should be by all of them strictly adhered to." This declaration may be considered as definitely deciding the fate of the Borough; although if we look at some administrations lately constituted, we certainly possess no "guarantee" for their existence from one session to another.

#### LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The catalogue of successive representatives can but be imperfectly traced, in most of the ancient cities, boroughs, &c. of this kingdom, in consequence of the defective state of the Journals of the House of Commons during some reigns, and in others, of their being entirely lost. With respect to Hertford, however, I have been enabled to overcome this difficulty, and to present the reader with a correct list of the returns ever since that privilege was allowed the Borough, in the time of

Edward the second. In collecting the following list, I have had reference to "*Prynne's Brevia Parliamentaria*" and "*Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria*," and through the kindness of a particular friend in London, I have completed the whole from the Journals of the House of Commons, so that its correctness and authenticity may be fully relied upon.

**EDWARD II.**

1315—Rogerus Godde, and Jonathan Jurden.\*

**ELIZABETH.**

1571—Henry Draycot. Thomas Broxholme, Gent.

1572—Job Throckmorton, Esq. George Delves, Esq.

1585—Denzil Holles, Esq. Thomas Wade, Esq.

1586—Denzil Holles, Esq. John Conyers, Esq.

1588—Geo. Chaworth, Esq. Alexander Radcliffe, Esq.

1592—Roger Poclington, Esq. Anthony Cook, Esq.

1597—Roger Poclington, Esq. John Roose, Esq.

1601—Roger Mannours, jun. Esq. Rt. Redman, Gent.

**JAMES I.**

1603—Sir John Thornhaugh, Knight Sir Thomas Dayrill, Knight.

1614—Sir Nathan Rich, Kt. Sir Rd. Williamson, Kt.

1620—Sir Nathan Rich, Kt. Edward Worsley, Esq.

1623—John Holles, Esq. Sir Nathan Rich, Kt. †

\* This Parliament was held at Lincoln, and commenced its sitting on the 28th of January.

† The year following, Sir Nathan Rich was elected for the Borough of Harwich, and John Darey, Esq. elected in his place.

## CHARLES I.

1625—John, Lord Haughton. Sir Francis Wortley, Bt.

1626—John, Lord Haughton. Sir Francis Wortley, Bt.

1627—John, Lord Haughton. Sir Francis Wortley, Bt.

1640—Sir Gervase Clifton, Bt. Francis Pierponte, Esq.

1640—Sir Gervase Clifton, Bt. Charles, Viscount Mansfield. \*

1645—Sir Wm. Lister, Kt. Fras. Thornhaugh, Esq.†

---

\* On the 22nd of January, 1643, Charles, Viscount Mansfield, eldest son of William, Earl of Newcastle, was disabled, for deserting the service of the House, being in the king's quarters and adhering to that party. — Sir Gervase Clifton was disabled on the 1st January, 1645.

† Mr. Thornhaugh died the 18th of November, 1648, and in May, 1649, — Neville, Esq. was returned.

Mr. Thornhaugh was the eldest son of Sir Francis Thornhaugh, Bart. and during the civil wars was a firm adherent of the parliamentary party. Mrs. Hutchinson, in the life of her husband says, that "a man of greater valour or more noble daring fought not for them, nor indeed ever drew sword in any cause; he was of a most excellent good nature to all men, and zealous for his friend; he wanted council and deliberation, and was sometimes too facile to flatterers, but had judgement enough to discern his errors when they were represented to him, and worth enough not to persist in an injurious mistake because he had once entertained it." He was killed by a scotch lance at the battle of Preston Pans, on 18th of November, 1648; "he was carried off the field" says the same historian, "by some of his owne men, while the rest, enraged for the lost of their dear collonell, fought not that day like men of human race: deafe to the cries of every coward that ask'd mercy, they killed all, and

**THE COMMONWEALTH.**

1653— } The only members returned from Nottingham-  
 1654— } shire during these three Parliaments, were  
 1656— } two for the county, and two for the town  
 of Nottingham.

1659—Clifford Clifton, Esq. Wm. Cartwright, Esq.

**CHARLES II.**

1660—Wm. Hickman, Esq. Wentworth Fitzgerald,  
 Earl of Kildare.

1661—Wm. Hickman, Esq. Thos. Fitzgerald, Esq.

1679—Sir Edwd. Nevile, Bt. Wm. Hickman, Esq.

1679—Sir Edwd. Nevile, Bt. Wm. Hickman, Esq.

1681—Sir Edwd. Nevile, Bt. Wm. Hickman, Esq.

**JAMES II.**

1685—Sir Edwd. Neville, Bt. John Millington, Esq.

1688—Evelyn Pierrepont, Esq. John Thornhaugh, Esq.

**WILLIAM AND MARY.**

1690—Evelyn Pierrepont, Esq. John Thornhaugh, Esq.

1695—John Thornhaugh, Esq. Richard Taylor, Esq.

would not that a captive should live to see their collonell die ;  
 but say'd the whole kingdom of Scotland was too meane a sacri-  
 fice for that brave man." She continues, " his soule was hover-  
 ing to take her flight out of his body, but that an eager desire  
 to know the success of that battle, kept it within, till the end of  
 the day, when the newes being brought him, he cleared his  
 dying countenance, and say'd, " I now rejoice to die, since God  
 hath let me see the overthrow of this perfidious enemy, I could  
 not lose my life in a better cause, and I have the favour from  
 God to see my blood avenged." Having so said he immediat-  
 ly expired.



1698—Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bt. William Levinz,  
Esq.

1700—Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bt. John Thornhaugh,  
Esq.

1701—Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bt. John Thornhaugh,  
Esq.

## ANNE.

1702—Sir Willoughby Hickman, Bt. William Levinz,  
Esq.

1705—Sir Hardolph Wasteneys, Bt. Robert Molesworth, Esq.

1708—Thomas White, Esq. William Levinz, Esq.

1710—Willoughby Hickman, Esq. Brian Cooke, Esq.

1713—Francis Lewis, Esq. John Digby, Esq.

## GEORGE I.

1715—John Digby, Esq. Thomas White, Esq.

1721—Thomas White, Esq. Patrick Chaworth, Esq.

## GEORGE II.

1728—Thomas White, Esq.\* Sir Robert Clifton, Bt.

1735—John White, Esq. Sir Robert Clifton, Bt.

1741—John White, Esq. William Mellish, Esq.†

\* Mr. White died in 1372, and his son John White, Esq. was elected in his stead.

† This gentleman resided at Blyth, and in early life was betrothed to a Jewess, of considerable property, but which, by a curious clause in the will of her father, her husband could not inherit until chosen Member of Parliament. Accordingly he offered himself for Retford, and, as a matter of course, was anxious to succeed in his endeavours. On the morning the election took place, he brought two different coloured horses to

1747—William Mellish, Esq. John Shelley, Esq.

1754—John White, Esq. John Shelley, Esq.

**GEORGE III.**

1761—John White, Esq. John Shelley, Esq.

1768—Sir Cecil Wray, Bt. John Offley, Esq.

1774—Sir Cecil Wray, Bt. Hon. William Hanger

1780—Wharton Amcotts, Esq. Right Hon. Lord  
J. P. Clinton

1784—Wharton Amcotts, Esq. The Earl of Lincoln

1790—Sir John Ingilby, Bart. William Henry  
Clinton, Esq.

1796—William Petrie, Esq. Sir Wharton Amcotts, Bt.

1802—Robert Crawford, Esq. John Jaffray, Esq.

1806—Robert Crawford, Esq. Thomas Hughan, Esq.

1807—William Ingilby, Esq. General Chas. Crawford

1812—George Osbaldeston, Esq. Charles Marsh, Esq.

1818—William Evans, Esq. Samuel Crompton, Esq.

**GEORGE IV.**

1820—William Evans, Esq. Samuel Crompton, Esq.

1826—Sir Robert Dundas, Knight. William Battie  
Wrightson, Esq.

---

Retford, the one, grey, the other, bay ; by means of which he was to send information of the result : if chosen, the grey one, if not, the other. There being no opposition he was elected, and immediately dispatched a messenger on the grey horse ; his lady, anxious for the success of her lord, was keeping a sharp look out for the signal, on discovering which, she was so overjoyed that she fell into hysterics, and in the course of two or three days actually died from the effects.

## CHAP. V.

**Antiquity of the Office of Bailiff—Bailiffs and Aldermen of 1607—List of Bailiffs from 1700—Present Body Corporate, &c.**

---

### ANTIQUITY OF THE OFFICE OF BAILIFF.

The term bailiff is derived from the French *bayliff*, that is, *præfectus provinciæ*, and as the name, so the office, was answerable to that of France. In ancient times the administration of justice devolved upon certain individuals, appointed by the reigning monarch, who upon taking the office were generally designated the king's bailiffs; other persons also, to whom were committed the keeping of the king's castles, were usually termed bailiffs, as, the bailiff of Dover Castle, &c. &c. besides these instances just noted, another, and almost the only one now remaining, was generally distinguished with that title, viz. the chief magistrates of cities and boroughs, some of whom, by charter, are now designated by that of mayor, whilst many others retain the title of bailiff to the present time; amongst which Retford may be classed as one.

At what period this title was first claimed by, or bestowed upon, the magistrates of this Borough is unknown ; certain it is, however, that it was previous to the thirteenth century. In the charter of James I. it is stated that the burgesses had been known sometimes by the name of bailiffs and burgesses, sometimes by the name of burgesses, and sometimes by *other* names ; which information would lead us to conclude that no certain cognomen was applied until the granting of the charter just alluded to ; indeed the term *mayor*, and *major*, is not unfrequently mentioned in several of the ancient records, but whether applied from authority, or allowed by courtesy, I am unable to certify ; at the granting of that charter, however, this was set at rest, and since that period they have invariably retained the name.

At the commencement of my labours it was my intention to have given a succession of magistrates from the year 1607, but finding that to be impossible, from various causes, over which I had no controul, I am only enabled to present the names of those for that year, and of the individuals who were nominated aldermen\* of the Borough, by the ordinances appended to the charter.

---

\* Alderman, from the Saxon *ealderman*, or senior. Amongst the Saxons, this was applied as one of the degrees of nobility, and signified an Earl, but it literally imports no more than "*elder*."

## BAILIFFS AND ALDERMEN OF 1607.

William Thornton, *Senior Bailiff*.Nicholas Watson, *Junior Bailiff*.

## ALDERMEN.

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Wharton, Gent. | Richard Parnell, Gent. |
| Thos. Tupman, Gent.   | Robert Stokeham, Gent. |
| Henry Mason, Gent.    | William Bellamy, Gent. |
| John Jepson, Gent.    | Francis Barker, Gent.  |
| Richard Osam, Gent.   | and                    |
| Henry Parnell, Gent.  | Martin Taylor, Gent.   |

## LIST OF BAILIFFS FROM 1700.

The following are the names of the bailiffs from 1700 to 1828, with notice of particular events, local and general, arranged under the years in which the several occurrences took place.

- 1700 Edward Jackson and William Peete
- 1701 William Bellamy and John Reynolds
- 1702 John Reynolds and Jonathan Lidgett
- 1703 Francis Dunston and Edward Thompson
- 1704 William Booth and Thomas Wright
- 1705 Jonathan Lidgett and Joseph Granger
- 1706 Edward Jackson and John Marr
- 1707 Jacob Mason and Thomas West
- 1708 Unknown
- 1709 Unknown
- 1710 Edward Jackson and William Golland
- 1711 Thomas West and Rado Hepwell

- 1712 Thomas West and Rado Hepwell
- 1713 Unknown
- 1714 William Booth and John Riley
- 1715 William Peete and Edward Jackson
- 1716 Edward Jackson and Thomas Neves
- 1717 John Booth and Edward Pickering
- 1718 Dobson Jackson and George Booth
- 1719 William Peete and Edward Fossist
- 1720 Thomas Wright and Thomas Buxton
- 1721 Unknown
- 1722 Unknown
- 1723 Dobson Jackson and John Holsking
- 1724 Thomas West and Richard Cottam
- 1725 Thomas Wright and Thomas Buxton
- 1726 Matthew Bradshaw and Thomas Rose
- 1727 Thomas Hodson and John Wright
- 1728 John Hodson and Thomas Wright
- 1729 Robert Atkin and Richard Jackson
- 1730 Unknown
- 1731 Edward Jackson and Richard Smith
- 1732 John Riley and John Bower
- 1733 Richard Jackson and John Harrison
- 1734 Dobson Jackson and John Parker
- 1735 Thomas Buxton and Benjamin Cromwell
- 1736 Robert Atkin and Robert Whitlam
- 1737 John Parker and Jonathan Bean
- 1738 Thomas West and Edward Taylor
- 1739 Richard Jackson and James Booth

- 1740 Dobson Jackson and James Mason  
1741 John Booth and John Mason  
1742 Thomas West and James Stenton  
1743 Thomas Wright and John Williamson  
1744 John Mason and John Parker  
1745 William Goodall and John Bristow

This year the rebellion in Scotland, and the battle of Culloden, took place. An army of 6000 English and Hessians encamped upon Wheatley Hills; the soldiers on marching through here soon after, made a stable of the church for their horses.

- 1746 John Kirke and Francis Goodall  
1747 James Mason and Benjamin Allison  
1748 Benjamin Cromwell and John Wheat

Peace between England, France, and Spain, proclaimed in February.

- 1749 Thomas Buxton and Robert Moody

Earthquakes felt in London on the 8th of February, and the 8th of March.

- 1750 John Harrison and William Bailey

On the 28rd of August, the shock of an earthquake as felt here, about seven in the morning; the day was remarkably calm both before and after the shock.

- 1751 Benjamin Allison and Joseph Wright  
1752 Thomas West and William Smith

The style and calendar altered on the 2nd

of September. The roof of the nave of the church was found to be in a very defective state; a new one was put on, and a rate of 7s. in the pound was laid on the parish to defray the expense. The rate amounted to £161. 0s. 8d. The top of the bridge over the river Idle, laid with new planks.

1753 John Mason and George Popplewell

First sheep market held in this Borough, 29th September. The junior bailiff's mace regilt.

1754 Thomas West and Clifton Woolby

This year the charter of James I. was translated by order of the Corporation.

1755 Benjamin Cromwell and William Kirke

The town-hall re-built. Lisbon totally destroyed by an earthquake.

1756 John Parker and John Bright

An act of parliament passed for making the river Idle navigable to Stockwith.

1757 John Bright and John Bingley

The militia raised.

1758 John Mason and John Hurst

The expenses of re-building the town-hall ascertained to be £1773. 19s. 1d.

1759 William Smith and John Booth.

Land marks ordered to be set up at the



boundaries of the estates belonging to the Corporation.

- 1760 John Bingley and Edward Brown
- 1761 John Hurst and John Booth
- 1762 Benjamin Cromwell and John Barker
- 1763 Edward Brown and Thomas Brumby
- 1764 John Mason and John Storrs
- 1765 William Smith and Fretwell Hudson
- 1766 John Bingley and John Taylor
- 1767 John Hurst and William Gylby
- 1768 William Kirke and Robert Sutton, Esqrs.
- 1769 George Popplewell and Sampson Mesman
- 1770 John Bright and Michael Sampson
- 1771 John Booth and Richard Hutchinson

The paper mill in the occupation of Mr. Brumby, pulled down and re-built.

- 1772 John Taylor and James Booth

The position of the door in the south wing of the church was altered to its present situation. Calicoes first made in Lincolnshire.

- 1773 Robert Sutton, Esq. and David Wheelwright

The roof of the chancel was considerably repaired at the expense of the parish.

- 1774 Benjamin Cromwell and John Kirke, Esq.

July 23rd, Robert Sutton, Esq. resigned the office of senior bailiff, and Alderman John Booth elected in his stead.

- 1775 Sampson Mesman and John Thornton, Sen.

**Robert Sutton, Esq. resigned his aldermanship, September 13th.**

**1776 Thomas Brumby, Sen. and John Thornton, Jun.**

**1777 John Bright and Edmund Kirke, Esqrs. .**

**The whole of the streets repaved.**

**1778 John Thornton, Sen. and Thomas Brumby, Jun.**

**1779 Richard Hutchinson and Francis Haworth**

**John Spencer, a native of North Leverton, was executed at Nottingham, on the 26th July, for the murder of William Yeadon, and his mother, Mary Yeadon, the keepers of Scrooby toll-bar, near which place his body was hung in chains; the gibbet post still remaining. A few weeks after being hung in chains, a party of soldiers passed that way, when a serjeant fired a musket, loaded with ball, at the body, and hit it. As soon as the circumstance was known, the soldiers were pursued, and the serjeant taken. He was afterwards tried by a court martial, and turned into the ranks.**

**1780 Edward Brown and John Brumby**

**1781 John Barker and Nathaniel Howard**

**1782 William Gylby and William Clarke**

**The town first publicly lighted with lamps.**

**1783 David Wheelwright and Darker Parker**

**1784 Robert Moody and James Marr**

**1785 John Parker and John Fell**

**1786 John Thornton, Jun. and John Ghest**

An attempt made to assassinate his Majesty by Margaret Nicholson.

1787 Sampson Mosman and Thomas Hall

Three new chandeliers placed in the church.

1788 Thomas Brumby and Edward Brown, Jun.

1789 John Thornton and John Barker, Jun.

On the 30th of January, an address of thanks was voted unanimously by the Corporation to the Right Hon. William Pitt, who by his parliamentary conduct had nobly asserted, and strenuously supported, the constitutional rights of the Commons of this Realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority from the indisposition of his Majesty.

The address was presented to Mr. Pitt by the Duke of Newcastle, Lord High Steward of the Borough: the following reply was received by the Town Clerk.

*Downing Street, Feb. 3rd, 1789.*

Sir,

*I have had the Honor of receiving from the Duke of Newcastle, a Copy of the Resolution, of the Bailiffs, Recorder, and Aldermen of the Town of East Retford, for which I beg thro' you to convey my best acknowledgments. It gives me great satisfaction to find that the principles on which I have felt it my duty to Act in the present unfortunate Emergency, meet with their Concurrence and Approbation.*

*I am, Sir,*

*Your most Obedt.*

*and faithful Servant,*

*W. Pitt.*

**1790** Darker Parker and Joseph Ginever...

**1791** John Booth, Jun. and Joseph Ginever, Jun.

**1792** Edward Brown and George Bailey, Jun.

**1793** Richard Hutchinson and Richard Chappell

**1794** Sampson Mosman and Beaumont Marshall

**1795** Joseph Ginever, Sen. and William Hindley

At a vestry meeting held on the 25th of January, it was resolved to discontinue playing the organ, and the salary of the organist to be funded for the purpose of erecting a new one.

**1796** John Parker and Thomas Barker

Thirty-six persons admitted to their freedom by redemption.

**1797** David Wheelwright and John Hutchinson

On the 2nd of November it was resolved at a meeting of the Corporation that the stock-house or goal, standing in the market-place, should be pulled down, and re-built where it now stands.

Mr. Donaldson agreed to put a new organ into the old case for one hundred and thirty guineas.

John Milner, was executed at Nottingham on the 16th of August, for stealing three cows, belonging to Mr. John Vessey, of Rufford. After he had hung a few seconds, the knot of the rope gave way, and he fell to the ground. Upon being raised up and prepared to be hung

a second time, he exclaimed, "*My God, this is hard work!*"

1798 William Clarke and John Abson

On the 22nd of March the Corporation voted the sum of one hundred pounds per annum to government towards the support of the war.

1799 Richard Dixon and Thomas Marshall

1800 Edward Brown and John Thornton

1801 John Thornton and George Barker

Michael Denman and William Sykes, both of East Retford, were executed at Nottingham on the 5th of August, for breaking into the Brown-Cow public house, at Mansfield, kept by Mr. Bowler, and stealing thereout a sum of money, and other articles.

1802 John Thornton and William Clarke

1803 Joseph Ginever and Isaac Dean

William Hill, of Lowndham, was executed at Nottingham on the 10th of August, for committing a rape (attended with great brutality) on Mrs. Sarah Justice, wife of a respectable farmer, at Bole, near Gainsbro', on the 28th of May, in the same year.

1804 Joseph Ginever and James Clark

Change in the administration, and Mr. Pitt reinstated as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and First Lord of the Treasury.

1805 Beaumont Marshall and George Thornton

**Robert Powell**, a native of **Stafford**, suffered the extreme penalty of the law, on the 10th of **April**, for robbing the house of **James Leemings**, of **Workop**.

On the 3rd of **November**, **Thomas Otter**, of **Treswell**, near **Retford**, murdered his wife at **Drinsey Nook**, being the evening of the day on which they were married. He was tried and executed at **Lincoln**, at the following assizes, and his body afterwards hung in chains on **Saxilby Common**, near the place where the horrid deed was perpetrated.

He was malicious and revengeful, and cruel to horses and other animals. A remarkable instance of which is related of him. Having cut out the eyes of a living ass, he made an incision with his knife in the rump, on each side of the tail, and stuck them in!

**1806** **John Thornton**, Sen. and **Joshua Cottam**

**1807** **Joseph Ginever** and **John Mason**

**1808** **William Clarke** and **William Golland**

**1809** **John Thornton**, jun. and **George Hudson**

**1810** **George Bailey** and **Thomas Welch**

**1811** **William Clarke** and **John Hudson**.

**1812** **Richard Chappell** and **George Thornton**

**1813** **Beaumont Marshall** and **William Cocking**

This year **£50.** was subscribed by the Corporation for the distressed poor in **Russia**, con-

sequent upon the French invasion.

1814 Joshua Cottam and John Dawber

1815 John Mason and Jonathan Banks

Battle of Waterloo.

John Hemstock, alias Black, a native of West Retford, was executed at Nottingham, on the 23rd of March, for the murder of James Snell, at the Whinleys, near Clarborough. His body was taken to the General Hospital near Nottingham for dissection; where his skeleton may at present be seen.

1816 Thomas Welch and William Meekley

1817 John Kirke, Esq. and William Cottam

The broad stone removed from the market-place, to its present situation.

1818 John Parker and John Houlst

1819 Darker Parker and William Cartwright

1820 William Meekley and William Cartwright

1821 William Clarke and William Cottam

1822 John Thornton, Jun. and John Dawber

Henry Sanderson, a native of Carlton in Lincric, was executed at Nottingham, on the 22nd of March, for the murder of William Carr, gamekeeper to Sir Thomas Wollaston White, Bart.

1823 Joshua Cottam and William Cottam

1824 George Thornton and Thomas Appleby

1825 George Hudson and John Dawber

1826 John Thornton, Sen. and George Bailey.

Joshua Smith and George Milnes, were executed at Nottingham, on the 26th of July, for breaking into the shop of John and Ann Wheat, drapers, &c. of Rampton, near this place.

1827 John Cottam, Sen. and Samuel Hindley.

1828 John Parker and William Elvidge(*bailiffs elect*)

**PRESENT BODY CORPORATE, ETC.**

The Corporation of East Retford consists of two bailiffs, a recorder, a town clerk, and two sergeants at mace. The senior bailiff is chosen at nine o'clock in the morning on the first monday in August, from amongst the aldermen, and the junior bailiff at twelve on the same day, from amongst the freemen at large, the aldermen nominating two individuals who have previously obtained their freedom: their names are then communicated to the freemen, and the choice of the person to be elected is determined by a majority of votes.

The present Body Corporate is composed of the following individuals, viz.

**LORD HIGH STEWARD.**

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G. &c. &c.

**LEARNED STEWARD, (OR RECORDER.)**

James Clinton Fynnes Clinton, Esq. M. P.



John Cottam, Gent. *Senior Bailiff.*

Samuel Hindley, Gent. *Junior Bailiff.*

ALDERMEN.

John Parker, Gent.

William Meekley, Gent.

John Thornton, Gent.

George Thornton, Gent.

Darker Parker, Gent.

George Hudson, Gent.

William Clarke, Gent.

Francis Dewick, Gent.

Joshua Cottam, Gent.

Thomas Appleby, Gent.

DEPUTY STEWARD, (OR TOWN CLERK.)

Mr. Edward Cromwell Brown.

SERGEANTS AT MACE.

Mr. William Pearson. Mr. William Tootell.

TOWN CRIER.

Samuel Tomlinson.

The senior bailiff, the aldermen, and the junior bailiff (during his year of office,) have each a gown, of purple cloth, edged with fur, in which they usually appear at church, four times in the year. Two very elegant maces\* wrought of silver, and gilt over, are borne

---

\* The form of the mace is derived from the may-pole, the arches of which springing from the circlet and meeting together at the mound or round ball, resemble the garland necessarily so formed to suspend it on the top of the pole. Maces of gold or silver were used only by kings, till Edward III. granted their use to the mayor of London. All other cities and towns in the kingdom being, by a royal precept, expressly commanded not to use maces of any other metal than copper.

before the bailiffs, on these, and other public occasions ; one of which (the largest) was presented to the Corporation by Sir Edward Nevile, Bart. and on one side has the following inscription "*Ex dono Edwardi Nevile, Milit. & Bart. de Grove in Comitatu Nottinghamiæ.*" On the obverse, on a shield, a rose, surmounted by a lion *proper*, surrounded by a circle on which is engraved "Villa de East Retforde: 1679." The lesser one, is considerably older and has no inscription, or other armorial bearing, with the exception of the King's Arms, and some emblematical devices, it was given to the Corporation by Sir Gervas Clifton, Bart. and M. P., as well as a large silver bowl, a smaller one, two wine bowls, two silver salts, and twelve silver spoons. They have also a very stately silver cup, presented by the Earl of Lincoln, which is generally used at the Corporation feasts.

## CHAP. VI.

**Places of Public Worship—The Parish Church  
—The Methodist Chapel—The Independent  
Dissenters' Chapel.**

---

### THE PARISH CHURCH.

In the year 1258, Gilbert de Tyva was made sacrist of the Cathedral of York, by Sewall, the then Archbishop, and was inducted into the possession of this church (which had previously been dedicated to St. Swithin) on the Saturday next after the feast of St. Martin, being about the 18th of March. On the 3rd of the *nones* of May, in the same year, the said Sewall, ordained the vicarage, along with those of Sutton, Everton, Hayton, and Clareburgh, in which ordination it was set forth, that if any of the vicars should happen to have less than ten marks per annum, the vicarage was to be augmented as it should please the Archbishop.

For the continuance and well-being of the vicarage, it became necessary that some stipend should be permanently fixed; accordingly the said prelate endowed it as follows.

## RETFORD VICARAGE.\*

Vicar de Retford heat centu solid  
 de Altar & minutas decias scilicet—  
 pullos porcellos ancas panem &  
 C<sup>h</sup>isiam quos itig<sup>e</sup> it deferri ad  
 Altar & Sacrista del paup<sup>l</sup>z ejusdem  
 ville decias Molindinos. Si ante  
 aliqua Vicarias sic sup<sup>u</sup>s taxatas  
 mine valeat decem Marcas p<sup>o</sup> juramentu  
 sac<sup>o</sup> dot & duos fidelin de poch ad  
 urm Debeat arbi<sup>o</sup> tu augmentari bi-  
 carij ult<sup>a</sup> decem Marcas octantu  
 hentes qd secu possint here sac<sup>o</sup> vote  
 teneant<sup>a</sup> se alt<sup>o</sup> o p<sup>o</sup> sbit<sup>o</sup> o ecc<sup>l</sup>is  
 deservire. Actu. iij. Non. Maij.  
 Anno dm millo. c. c<sup>mo</sup> ququagesimo  
 octavo.

Retford.

elemos<sup>ce</sup> xxij. li.vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> pep deciam

moledines de

Retford.

Having thus briefly introduced the steps taken for the establishment of the church, and also the means by which it was endowed for the support of those who might hereafter be collated to the living; I shall lay before the reader the following extract from Torre's manuscript of the Archdeaconry of Nottingham, deposited in the archives of the Cathedral at York, wherein the substance of the foregoing document is set forth.

\* From the Register Book of Archbishop Greenfield, remaining in the consistory court at York.

## RETTFORD CH: OF ST. SWITHIN.\*

**Church.**—The Ch: of East Retford was by Roger,† Abp. of York given to his new founded Chappell of St. Mary and Holy Angells near the Minister of York.‡

\* St. Swithin received his clerical tonsure, and put on the monastic habit, in the monastery at Winchester, and was promoted to holy orders by Helmstan, Bishop of Winchester; at whose death in 852, King Ethelwolf granted him the see. In this he continued eleven years, and died in 868.

† This Roger was the famous opponent of the celebrated Thomas a Becket. He, it appears, had given the church to that place some time previous to the above endowment, as that prelate died in 1190, so that a church had been in existence here long before 1258.

‡ Mr. Luddington, who was vicar of East Retford in 1660, informs us that this chapel was “near the greater church of York; in which Roger placed thirteen clarks of several orders, viz. four priests, four deacons, four subdeacons, and one sacrist, to celebrate divine service according to the constitution of that church of St. Peter; for whose support he gave the moyety of the church of Ottley, the church of Everton, the church of Sutton, with the chapel of Scrooby, and the church of Hayton, the church of Beardsey. The church of Claverly was of the gift of William Scoty, that of Hoton of William Pannel, that of Harewood of Amicia de Rumelly, and that of Thorpe of Adam de Bruis, and Javette de Arches his wife. Hamo the chanter of York, was by the said Archbishop Roger made sacrist of the said chapel of St. Mary and Holy Angells, that in it he might dispose and order the service, and procure and minister to the chaplains, deacons, and sub-deacons, what the archbishop had constituted for their food and rayment, &c. Every priest was

And being appropriated to it on the 3 non: Maij A. D. 1258.

**Vicarage.**—Abp. Sewall ordained that the Vicar of Retford should have 100s. out of the Alterage, and the Small Tithes, viz. of Chickens, Piggs, Geese, and the bread and wine which shall happen to be brought to the Altar.

In wch respect the Vicar shall repair the Chancel and find necessaries for them. And also answer the Archdeacon his procurations.

And the Sacrist of that Chappell was to give the Tithes of the Mills to the poor of the Town.

In a book entitled "*Nonarum Inquisitiones in Curia Scaccarii*," referring to the reign of Edward III, we find the following document respecting this church and vicarage.

EST RETFORD.

*It qd non vell & agn ecclie de Est Retford p q no tax q o pcella capelle Sti Sepulc an dce vz p ann. xj et no plq qz nulle garb nz fen ad ea ptin set totu consistit in allag mortuar oblat & aliis minut decis q val p ann ad ver val xxi is iijd et de toto integro pcipit vicar de relore C p porcone sua.*

to have yearly ten marks, every deacon one hundred, and every sub-deacon six marks of silver by the hand of the sacrist, who was also to have yearly ten marks, (though the rents whereof he was made procurator should happen to fall short to the rest) and the surplusage of all the rents, but was to act with all diligence according to the will and direction of the said archbishop."

*Mon. Angl. vol. 3. page 137.*

In the year 1392. this church contained two Altars, situate in a chapel\* at the back of the chancel, one dedicated to St. Trinity the other to St. Mary, at which two Cantarists were appointed (by the bailiffs of East Retford) to minister daily: for the conducting and support of which the following copy of an ancient document will present a detail.

COMMUNITIES CHANTRY, 16 AUG: AD. 1392. .

“The Bailiffs and Comūnity of the Town of Retford having obtained the King’s license to amortize, &c. &c. by the consent of Tho: Abp. of York, and his Chapter, gave, and by their Charter, confirmed to God, St. Mary, and All Saints, and to the Altars of St. Trinity and St. Mary, built in the parish Church of East Retford, and to Sir John, son of Robert Browne, of Tyreswell,

---

\* This Chapel was large, and appears to have extended to a considerable distance eastward, being the burial place of several of the parishoners who died in affluent circumstances; thus we find that Thomas Maunton, of East Retford, *Berker*, made his will, proved the 24th of May, 1425, giving his soul to God Almighty, St. Mary and All Saints, and his body to be buried in the quire of St. Trinity, within the Church of St. Swithin, of the said town. This and a number of others which our space will not allow us to mention, proves the fact above stated. We also find in 1442, Maud Wakefield died, giving her soul as above, and her body to be buried in the quire of St. Mary’s, within the said Church; in 1443, Alexander Roley; in 1455, John Roley; in 1459, Thomas Lord; in the same year Ralph Rickson; in 1460, Thomas Strendall; in 1473, William Gill; and in 1513, John Helwys; each, and all, did as above.

and Stephen Mandelene, Chaplens, and their successors, the annual rent of £16. 8s. sterling, issuing out of 9 Messuages and 5 Tofts, in the Town of East Retford, payable quarterly, every year to the said Chaplens, and their successors, for celebrating masses, and other divine services, at the said Altars for ever, under the forms following, &c. And also that there be annually on the 4th of December one special obit. celebrated for them and their Comūnity by the Vicar of the Church, for the time being, and the said two Chaplens with Placeto and Dirige, &c. And that the Vicar after the end thereof shall have 6d. and the two Chaplens 3d. a piece, paid by them and their successors, the Bayliffs of the town, &c. and that in every vacation of these Chaurtries, that the presentation thereunto do (*pleno jure*) belong to them, the said Bayliffs, and their Comūnity for ever."

*A Catalogue of the First Cantarists for St. Trinity's Altar.*

| TEMP. INST.      | CANTARISTS PRIMARY.                                        | PATRONI.                   | VACAT.    |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 16th Aug. 1392   | Dma. John Brown de Tereswell, Cap                          | Ballive & Com. de Retford. | p. Mort.  |
| 13th April, 1407 | Dma. John Masham, Pbr.<br>Dma. John Frankyah, Cap.         | ijdem                      | p. Resig. |
| 1st Jan. 1422    | Dma. Richard Peynter, Pbr.                                 | ijdem                      |           |
| 11th Nov. 1423   | Dma. Richard Thrampton, Pbr.<br>Dma. Richard Webster, Cap. | ijdem                      | p. Mort.  |
| 3rd. Sep. 1450   | Dma. William Hall, Cap.                                    | ijdem                      | p. Mort.  |
| 13th March, 1458 | Dma. Robert Gylh, Pbr.                                     | ijdem                      | p. Resig. |
| 16th Sep. 1467   | Dma. Thomas Underwood, Cap.                                | ijdem                      | p. Mort.  |
| 5th July, 1468   | Dma. William Ricard, Cap.                                  | ijdem                      |           |
| 22nd May, 1486   | Dma. Richard Wylis, Cap.                                   | Æpus and Cap.              | p. Mort.  |
| 13th April, 1513 | Dma. John Boys, Cap.                                       | Ballivi.                   |           |



*A Catalogue of Secondary Cantarists of St. Mary's Allen.*

| TEMP. INST.     | CANTARISTE SECONDARY.        | PATRONI.                   | VACAT.                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 16th Aug. 1392  | Dms. Stephen Mandelene, Cap. | Ballive & Com. de Retford. | pro.resig vic. de West Markm. |
| 23rd Feb. 1400  | Dms. William Tiltyngs, Cap.  | ijdem                      |                               |
| 3rd Dec. 1422   | Dms. John Fryston, Cap.      | ijdem                      |                               |
|                 | Dms. Robert Holme, Pbr.      | ijdem                      |                               |
|                 | Dms. John Wiston, Cap.       | ijdem                      | p. Mort.                      |
| 14th Oct. 1440  | Dms. William Wryght, Pbr.    | ijdem                      |                               |
|                 | Dms. William Kirkeby, Pbr.   | ijdem                      | p. Mort.                      |
| 22nd Sep. 1464  | Dms. Thomas Gedlyng, Pbr.    | ijdem                      | p. Resig.                     |
| 23rd Sep. 1485  | Dms. Roger Wilson, Cap.      | ijdem                      | p. Mort.                      |
| 16th Feb. 1506  | Dms. Henry Runder, Cap.      | ijdem                      | p. Resig.                     |
| ult. July, 1508 | Dms. John Gedlyng, Pbr.      | ijdem                      | p. Mort.                      |
| 30th Jan. 1517  | Dms. Thomas Wilson, Cap.     | ijdem                      | p. Resig.                     |
| 28th Oct. 1524  | Dms. Richard Baok, Pbr.      | ijdem                      |                               |

Early in the 16th century it was found that this chapel, from age and decay, must soon become a heap of ruins, and several other parts of the church had become considerably delapidated from the same cause, it was resolved that the chapel should be entirely demolished, and the church repaired with the old materials. This took place in 1528, when a stone, of which the following is an inscription, was placed over the door formerly the entrance to the chapel, as a record of the event.



In comparing the dates of the above it will appear evident that a two-fold error has been committed.

First, a chronological,—Secondly, a clerical, one. As it respects the first it will not excite much surprise if we consider the defective state of chronological computations at that period, because, until the immortal Newton finally completed his theory, the *data* on which calculations of this nature had been made, were extremely erroneous, and an error of six years might easily be accounted for; but when we find 1582 substituted for 1528, we may suppose the mistake to have originated with the engraver, who has either not discovered it,—or discovering, has thought the alteration unnecessary. Be this, however, as it may, it is certain that the stone was placed there in 1528, to commemorate the event previously alluded to.

After the body of the church had undergone a thorough repair, I find little worthy of particular notice respecting it: (with the exception of a regular and uninterrupted succession of vicars,) until the year 1651, when the tower, the chancel, and a considerable portion of the rest of the building was blown down. The following minute, dated November 4th, 1652, from the books of the Corporation, is almost the only document now remaining relative to the event; it states,

“That the greatest part of the church of East Retford, by the fall of the steeple, and other parts, had become very ruinous and made a heap of stones; and the remainder was much shaken and injured; that the inhabitants had been at a great charge and cost to re-

pair the part of the church which was standing, but were unable to re-build what had fallen down, (the town being full of poor people, unable to contribute towards the charge, and being themselves chargeable to the rest of the inhabitants;) that the bailiffs, aldermen, and council of the town, (whose names were subscribed,) had endeavoured, with the consent of the common burgesses, or the greater part of them, to procure the assistance of the neighbouring towns towards so pious a work, but finding that course fail, they did, therefore, with one consent, order and decree, that all the messuages, cottages, lands, and hereditaments, belonging to the Corporation, or wherein they had any estate of freehold, either as trustees for the use of the Free Grammar School, or otherwise, in the villages, hamlets, or parishes of Kirton, Willoughby, and Walesby, in the county of Nottingham, should be sold in fee-farm, only reserving the ancient and accustomed yearly rent then paid, or payable to the bailiffs and burgesses for the use of the said school, and that the monies which should be raised, by such sale, should be employed towards re-building and repairing the said church and steeple." The charge of re-building the whole, amounted to about £1500. of which the greatest portion was paid by the Corporation.

After the completion of the church in 1658, nothing particular occurs until the year 1687, when the oldest terrier of the Glebe lands, &c. now in existence, and

which, in all probability was the first belonging to this vicarage, was drawn up and signed by the vicar, the churchwardens, and three of the parishioners; I shall therefore, after giving a copy of it, proceed to a general description of the building, &c. as we find it at the present day.

Aug: y<sup>e</sup> 13. 1687.

A true & pfect Terrier of all y<sup>e</sup> Geab Lands belonging to East Retford Church.

Imp<sup>ts</sup> One Dwelling house containing three Bays of Building, one Layth containing two Bays of Building & one Garden with a Yard butting upon y<sup>e</sup> Church Yard on the West, & on the King's Street on the South, on y<sup>e</sup> School Orchard on y<sup>e</sup> East, & Jos: Cotnam's Orchard on y<sup>e</sup> North.

*Tythes.*

All manner of Small Tythes with y<sup>e</sup> Easter Book, and y<sup>e</sup> Surplus Fees, & two Gates on y<sup>e</sup> Common.

*Signed,*

Willm. Dunston, *Major.* Wm. Wintringham, *Vicar.*  
Christo. Byron, *Alderman.* William Bunby, } *Church-*  
Thos. Rawson, *Alderman.* Francis Hindley, } *wardens*

The Parish Church of St. Swithin, which is a large, well-proportioned, and handsome structure, is situate on the north side of Chapel Gate, near the north eastern verge of the parish, in a very convenient

situation; it is generally denominated the Corporation Church, not only on account of its standing within the borough, but also to distinguish it, in general conversation, from West Retford Church: The present edifice is, generally speaking, in the Gothic style of architecture, and in excellent condition on the outside, but only in moderate repair in the interior. It has a very handsome square tower, containing six bells; and the body, which is in the form of a cross, consists of a nave, a chancel, two side aisles, with north and south transept; the whole pretty well lighted, and on a commodious plan.

The architecture is evidently of four dates; the oldest, in all probability, being Norman. Near the pulpit are the remains of two clusters of pillars with their bases, and a fragment of the caps still remaining. The spring of the arch on each side of the nave has been altered from the form of a semicircle to the pointed Gothic, but the alteration is quite apparent. Over the porch (*as may be seen by a reference to the frontispiece*) is the medallion of a king on his throne, with a globe and sceptre; this is probably of the same period, and may have been placed in its present situation after the ruins of the first church.

The next in point of age, is about the date of the original endowment, as a reference to the fine lancet-shaped window in the chancel, as well as to some other parts of the edifice, will testify. About the year 1200,

the short round-headed window of the Saxons gave way to this peculiar style, which continued to be the prevailing fashion of the times, until about the reign of Edward the third.

The two latter dates are both Gothic;\* the earlier of the two being apparently of the florid style of Henry the seventh's age; and the latter, that of the reign of Charles the second.

The body of the church is one hundred and sixteen feet six inches long, from the eastern window to the western entrance; fifty-one feet laterally, from wall to wall in the nave and side aisles; eighty-five feet from north to south in the centre, and the chancel nineteen feet. The largest portion of this space is taken up with pews, some of which (those in the south aisle, the southern transept, and the chancel,) are regular and well sized, but the whole of those in the nave are not only irregular in their construction and arrangement, but are extremely ill-adapted to accommodate that number of persons which the increasing population of the town necessarily requires; if the whole were repewed, in such a manner as a sense of propriety would dictate, several additional sittings would be obtained, without injury to any of the present proprietors, whilst

---

\* I use the term Gothic in this place as being generally applied to buildings of this description, though I am aware the term Saracenic, would be more appropriate. See *Rev. Mr. Benham's History of Ely Cathedral*.

suitable accommodation would be provided for several respectable families in the town to whom sittings would be highly acceptable.

The height of the tower to the top of the pinnacles is ninety-seven feet, and of the nave forty-four feet; the roof of the nave is supported by pillars, duodecagonal in figure, and terminating with the small abacus; over the arches are twelve clorestory windows, which have a very light and interesting appearance. None of the windows at present exhibit any specimen of stained glass so as to allow us to give a description, being merely such small specks as have hitherto withstood the fury of the contending elements, or what is more to be dreaded in some cases—the rash hand of the glaziers' apprentice. The western window is nearly new; formerly however, it could boast of its heraldic and other insignia, even so late as the year 1677, in which Thoroton wrote this part of his history of Nottinghamshire;—he thus describes it.

In the West window—France and England, and Sab. Fretty Arg. a Carpenter's square Or, and Sab. Fretty Arg. and Axe Shaft Or. and head Arg.—There was Gules a chief Arg. Hercy quartering Leek.—And Gules a Saltier ermine, Neville, impaling Arg. a Chevron between three stars (or Mulletts) pierced sable; and under the same all in one scutcheon, Arg. upon a Bend Azure, three Crescents Arg. A few scattered pieces are to be found in the eastern window; these however

are nearly all the fenestral embellishments which at present exist, though, without doubt, this church in its earlier ages, contained many more.

There are at present four galleries, viz. one in the north aisle, another in the south erected in 1778, one over the west entrance in 1740, and another in the southern transept in 1820; that in the north aisle, is considerably the oldest, some parts of it being composed of old English oak, and the workmanship may be considered as of the fifteenth century; in the gallery over the western entrance stands the organ\* built by Mr. Donaldson in the year 1797, it is however much too small for the nave of the church, which, were it larger, and more proportionable, would have a very pleasing effect: it has been in agitation some time to make a considerable enlargement in the case, and, with

---

\* The first organ which this church possessed came from the Theatre, at Newark, and was presented by Robert Sutton, Esq. and the gallery erected at his expense, in 1770. In 1787 an additional stop was introduced by Mr. Casterton, of Lincoln; and in 1797, the present organ was erected, and the front of the old one taken to the church at West Retford. The following is a list of the organists, with the dates of their appointment.

Sep. 14, 1770, Mr. W. Wilson.  
 Nov. 12, 1778, Mr. B. Young.  
 July 28, 1781, Mr. I. Goodlad.  
 July 18, 1791, Dr. Miller.

Oct. 8, 1797, Mr. John Gildon.  
 April 25, 1799, Mr. T. Hand.  
 July 2, 1807, Mr. J. Birch.  
 April 4, 1822, Mr. J. E. Clarke.

June 22, 1834, Mr. H. T. Bugg, *present Organist.*



the addition of pedals, it might be made not only a beautiful ornament to the church, but a credit to the town at large.

The northern transept is generally known by the name of the "*Bishop's choir*," and I find it to be supposed by several, that a bishop has been interred here; this is however, an erroneous idea, as that name is derived from the circumstance of the bishop holding the ecclesiastical court here for the Deanry of Retford every four years: the Archdeacon also delivers his charge to the clergy, &c. annually in this place; hence the appellation of "*Bishop's Choir*." This place is used on sundays for the accommodation of the children belonging to the National School, during the celebration of divine service. In an interstice in the north wall is a kind of closet, the door of which is secured by two very ancient locks, and an iron bar; here are deposited the indentures of those who have been bound apprentices by the parish; it also contains a number of certificates which were formerly demanded from every person on changing his residence from one parish to another.

The chancel, compared with the church, is but small, and formerly was but indifferently lighted, as a considerable part of the window was walled up; latterly however, this defect has been remedied, and the light is now considered to be too strong and glaring. Some years ago it was suggested to have it glazed with

ground glass, edged with a slight relief of stained glass, which, if carried into effect, would have a very neat and imposing appearance; but as the requisite funds could not be obtained without an appeal to the parish rates, the idea was abandoned, and the subject fell to the ground.

The vestry room is a small, but very convenient apartment, fitted up in the year 1792, on the north side of the chancel, in which the parish vestries are usually held. The parish chest, 'a pondrous ark of oak,' displaying on its front, three large locks, is also kept here, wherein are deposited, in the most confused and disorderly state, the parish books from the year 1687, together with the vouchers: it is much to be regretted that the contents of this chest are not so collected and arranged as to be ready at all times for reference, by those whose business may lead them to do so.

The tower contains six well-toned bells, which, with the exception of the third (it being considered somewhat too sharp) are said, not only to sound well, but harmoniously. As many of my readers may be strangers to the belfrey, and not wishful to hazard an ascent up the awkward and difficult ladders, &c. which lead thereto, I shall briefly describe the ascent. The entrance is at the angle formed by the junction of the south aisle and transcept, where, after ascending two flights of steps, is the door leading to the ringing

chamber; here the machinery belonging to the clock is placed; from hence you ascend a ladder into another chamber where is the chimes machine; here also is an outlet to the roof of the nave; from this chamber another ladder leads to the belfrey; the following is a copy of the inscriptions which circumscribe the heads of the bells.

*First, or Treble Bell.*

THIS BELL WAS GIVEN BY ROBERT SUTTON ESQ<sup>R</sup> OF THIS  
TOWN. 1771.

PACK AND CHAPMAN FECIT LONDON.

*Second Bell.*

JESVS BE OVR DEEDS. 1624

*Third Bell.*

FEARE YE THE LORD. 1658.

*Fourth Bell.*

GOD SAVE THE KING. 1660.

*Fifth Bell.*

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH. 1660.

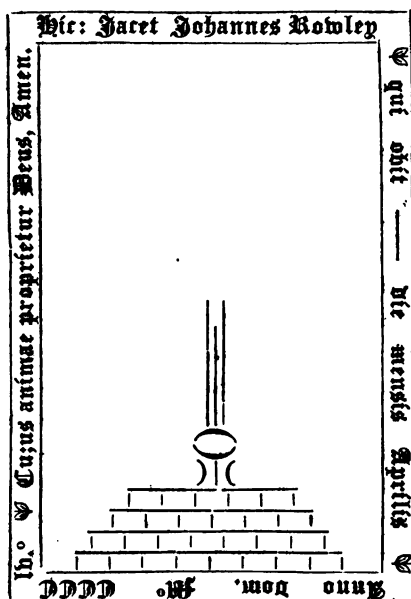
*Tenor Bell.*

GOD SAVE HIS CHVRCH. 1590.

From this place a small ladder conveys you to the top of the tower which forms an area of six hundred square feet, which is rendered perfectly secure by an embattled fabric raised five feet high. The old pinnacles, which were very diminutive in size, and inferior in point of workmanship, were, a few years

ago, found to be considerably decayed, and in the year 1816, it was agreed that they should be taken down and new ones erected. The whole of the new part is from the projecting ledge a little below the battlements; the pinnacles, which are eleven feet high, are considered light and highly ornamental to the ancient fabric.

Having thus given a hasty sketch of the church as it now is, I shall next proceed to notice, as far as my limits will allow, what must at all times be highly interesting both to the general visitor and the antiquary, viz. the monuments and monumental inscriptions which remain,—probably the only records of those whose memories they perpetuate, which the all-consuming hand of time has not yet been enabled to destroy. Here, all alike, rest in peace; the dust has mingled with its kindred dust, and the sacred ashes of our forefathers repose in the silence of the grave! It is not improbable but that several of these remains of antiquity were demolished at the time the church was in ruins, either from the fall, or from neglect,—perhaps both, as three only are now remaining whose dates are anterior to that time, and out of these three, two are broken and defaced. The most ancient is in the bishop's choir, it is a massy tomb three feet two inches high, three feet eleven inches broad, and six feet nine inches long; the inscription on the upper side, which circumscribes the edge is as follows,—



Along the centre of the stone is the under part of an ornamental cross,\* the rest being nearly obliterated; on each side, and nearly in the centre, is the figures of

\* The earliest floor stones in churches which covered the remains of mortality, seldom had more inscribed upon them than the name and rank of the person interred; engraved crosses were then forbidden, on account of it being an indignity to trample upon them; afterwards they were sanctioned and generally used, great care however being taken not to tread upon them.

two shields, which formerly contained three crescents upon a bend.—Close by, on the north side, is a marble stone, on the floor, the workmanship of which is in excellent preservation; the following is a copy of the inscription.—

*Hic jacet Johannes Smyth, Merxer, de East Retford, qui obiit 26 die Maii, Anno Dom. 1496. Cujus animæ proprietur Deus, Amen.*

On a stone at the east end of the bishop's choir, we find the following.—

*Hic jacet Johannes ———\* Vicarius de East Retford, Rector of Haxton and Ordsall, qui obiit 28 December. Anno 1511. Cujus animæ proprietur Deus, Amen.*

Another stone not far from the above contains as under.—

*Hic jacet Johannes Benman, Armiger, qui obiit 16 Novembris, Anno Dom. 1517. Cujus animæ proprietur Deus, Amen.*

The arms are, a cinquefoyle upon a chevron,—twice cut.

In the chancel, on the north side, is an antique and ornamental mural monument, without date; the inscription is as follows.—

---

\* The surname is entirely obliterated; in all probability the remains of John Helwys, who was vicar of this church about that period.

*Hic jacent*  
*Antiquæ et Generosæ Domus*  
*reliquæ*  
*Beatem expectantes Resurrectionem*  
*Jacobi Lane et Annæ uxoris*  
*trium filiorum*  
*Guilielmi Thomæ et Jacobi*  
*et filiae unius Annæ.*  
*Nec non fratris Johannis, filijqz ejus Jacobi*  
*quorum omnium*  
*M. S.*  
*Stephanus Rose qui uxorem duxit Mariam*  
*Richardis filij quarti M. A. olim Coll. B. Petri Cantab Socii*  
*filiam unicam et hæredem*  
*Pio et grato animo hoc posuit Monumentum*  
*Ipsam brevi ruiturum.*

Nearly opposite to the above is a plain neat marble monument to the memory of William Rose, Gent., having thereon the following eulogy.

Near this place  
 lye interred  
 the remains of  
 WILLIAM ROSE, gent.  
 son of Stephen and Mary,  
 educated at Peter House in Cambridge,  
 M. A. sometime fellow of that College.—  
 A bright and lively imagination  
 conducted  
 by a strong and comprehensive understanding ;  
 and joined  
 to a singular goodness of heart and generosity of spirit,

qualified him  
for what he made the business of his life,  
the pursuit and enjoyment of truth ;  
thus,  
what he owed to himself,  
the happy frame and disposition of his mind  
enabled him fully to accomplish :  
what he owed to others,  
his ill health and frequent indisposition of body  
would not suffer him so fully to discharge,  
by entering into  
any of the learned professions ;  
for in many of them he might have excelled,  
and become a public benefit ;  
but for this he made no small amends  
by the great merit of his personal example.  
In an age of general profligacy,  
both in principle and manners :  
he adorned the religion of his country,  
by the sincerest adherence to its Communion ;  
and the most rational and zealous profession of its Doctrines  
and Moral Virtues, he recommended  
by the noblest practice  
of Temperance, Justice, Friendship, and extensive Charity.  
His family erected this monument  
to the memory  
of so excellent a man,  
and so affectionate a brother.  
He died in the 58th year of his age,  
on the 27th day of May.  
in the year of our Lord  
1753.



On the north wall of the chancel is another plain marble tablet thus inscribed:—

TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY  
OF A MOST AMIABLE WOMAN,  
IN WHOM WERE UNITED  
EVERY RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND SOCIAL VIRTUE.  
THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED  
BY JOSIAS COCKSHUTT, ESQ.  
OF WEST RETFORD,  
TO MARY HIS WIFE,  
WHO DIED 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1770,  
AGED 19 YEARS.

On the same side near the east window, is a small, but elegant mural monument, containing the following inscription.

To the memory of ROBERT SUTTON, Esq.  
whose body lies interred near this place.  
He was born 11 Nov. 1699, at Kelham in  
this county, and died 13th of Nov. 1776.  
In 1720 he was appointed Secretary of the  
embassy to the congress at Cambray.  
He was afterwards Gentleman Usher to the  
late Queen Caroline. Master of the  
King's staghounds in Shirewood Forest—  
a Justice of the Peace—and Deputy Lieu-  
tenant for this county.

During a residence of many years in this  
Town, he was a benefactor to it in the fol-  
lowing instances; he gave £100. towards

building the Town Hall,—£100. towards the  
Barnby Common Road—built Pelham Bridge—  
paid the assessment for the poor on new  
roofing the Church—gave an Organ and a  
Bell to the Church—£200. towards procuring  
the Queen's bounty—and the dividend of a  
share in the Canal to the poor of East Retford for ever.

This monument was erected by his Relict Mrs. Mary Sutton.

Exactly opposite to the foregoing is another, from  
which we transcribe the following.

TO THE MEMORY OF  
SIR WHARTON AMCOTTS  
OF KETTLETHORPE PARK,  
IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN, BARONET,  
WHO REPRESENTED  
THIS RESPECTABLE BOROUGH IN PARLIAMENT  
DURING TWENTY YEARS.  
HE DIED SEPTEMBER 26TH 1807,  
AGED 67 YEARS.  
THIS MONUMENT  
WAS ERECTED BY HIS AFFECTIONATE WIDOW  
AMELIA THERESA AMCOTTS.

The only remaining monument to be noticed, in the  
chancel, is a small, but elegant sacophagus placed im-  
mediately over Mrs. Cockshutt's, bearing the following  
inscription.

Sacred to the Memory of  
JOHN PARKER, ESQ.  
formerly an Alderman of the Corporation of East Retford,  
and truly respected by all who knew him :  
he died on the 17th day of September, 1785, aged 66 years.

And also of PHILLIS PARKER his wife,  
who departed this life on the 2nd July, 1811,  
aged 91 years.

A most affectionate wife, good mother, and sincere  
christian, ever to be regretted by her Family and Friends.

This monument is erected by their son

JOHN PARKER, ESQ.

An oval tablet, on a dark ground, in the bishop's  
choir, gives us the following.

RICHARD MORTON, M. A.

vicar of this Parish

forty-nine years,

died April 20th, 1821, aged 76 years.

To his memory highly endeared  
his widow and two surviving daughters  
consecrate this tribute of affection.

Five children died in infancy,

Mary, August 27th, 1816, aged 31 years ;

George, M. A. and in orders Dec. 9th, 1818, aged 39 years.

On another adjoining this is a plain white tablet  
edged with black marble, inscribed as under.

*In memory of JOSEPH GINEVER, an Alderman of  
this Borough, and a man of inflexible integrity ; who died  
greatly respected, July 15th, 1827, aged 65 years. By his  
Will, he bequeathed Three Hundred Pounds, to be applied  
for the use of the Poor Women of this parish for ever.*

Another marble tablet, in the north aisle commem-  
morates the death of five of the children of John  
Holmes, Esq.

In the south aisle are placed four mural monuments,

the first of which is to the memory of Thomas Brumby, Alderman, and Mary his wife; another to the memory of Mary, the wife of Francis White; a third to the memory of Thomas Welsh, an Alderman, of this borough; and the fourth (with a transcript of which I shall conclude the catalogue) to that of Beaumont Marshall, Esq.

Sacred  
To the memory of  
**BEAUMONT MARSHALL,**  
An Alderman of this Borough,  
The estimation and respect in which he was held,  
By all ranks of Society,  
And the influence of his character in general,  
**Strikingly** exemplified how much may be effected  
By integrity of principle,  
And uprightness of conduct.  
If a regular and devout attendance  
On the ordinances of religion;  
If a faithful discharge of public Trusts  
And private Duties; if many social Virtues,  
United with unobtrusive Charity,  
Could justify a reasonable hope of Salvation,  
He might have had whereof to glory:  
But being deeply sensible of his utter  
Unworthiness in the sight of God,  
He trusted exclusively to the merits  
Of a crucified Saviour.  
He was enabled, by Divine grace,  
To support a tedious illness  
With comparative patience and resignation,  
And departed this life in the blessed hope

Of a glorious immortality,  
On the 13th of April, 1826,  
Aged 67 Years.

He bequeathed to the Bailiffs and Aldermen  
Of East Retford and their Successors  
One Hundred Pounds, for the benefit  
Of ten Poor Families, for ever.

#### THE FONT.

The most curious, if not the most ancient, piece of workmanship in the Church, is the Font, which stands on the left hand immediately on entering the great south door; the pedestal as well as the sculptured ornaments are in good preservation, with the exception of one flower, which has been mutilated for some purpose or other; it stands three feet nine inches high; the pedestal is plain and neat, and on the under side of the body is the figure of a bishop (probably that of St. Swithin) holding a book to his breast. It is generally supposed to be the work of the sixteenth century. In the early ages of christianity, fonts were kept in private houses, and sometimes placed in woods and other secluded places, but afterwards, they were introduced into the porches of churches, and subsequently into their interior parts.

For the sake of record, I shall in the next place proceed to notice the **Benefactional Tablets**, of which, in this church, there are four, viz. two in the bishop's choir, and two in the chancel.



**Font,**  
*in East-Portford Church.*



**IN THE BISHOP'S CHOIR.**

Mrs. Hannah Saltmarsh, daughter of Mr. John Smeaton, Alderman of this Town, gave towards the repair and amendment of this Church, the sum of £100—£30. towards the teaching of the poor children, and £20. for the use of the poor, to be distributed at the discretion of the vicar.—Mrs. Barbara Moody of this Town, gave in the year 1726, the sum of £24. the use of which is to be distributed upon the feast of St. Mark, for ever, amongst six of the poorest widows of this town, at the discretion of the vicar and the Senior Bailiff for the time being.

George Wharton of this Town, Gentleman, gave one close in Dominie Cross to the head Master of the Free School, to read the Common Prayer on every sunday in the afternoon in the Church of East Retford. And also five pounds per annum, out of his estate in Little Gringley, for the teaching and clothing five poor boys of this parish, not being the sons of freemen, for ever; and also gave 15 penny loaves to be given every monthly communion for ever; and appointed John Simpson, James Wharton, Gentlemen, and Thomas Gylby, vicar, trustees for the same.—Stephen Rose of this Town, Gent. painted and gave the history of the last supper for the adorning and beautifying this chancell.\*—Mrs. Sharpe of this town gave the interest of twenty pounds, now in the hands of the Corporation, to be distributed to the poor, by the Senior Bailiff.

**IN THE CHANCEL.**

S<sup>t</sup> Gervas Clifton, of Clifton, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. Kt. and Bart. gave to this Corporation 1 large Silver Bowl,

---

\* This painting is placed within the altar rails, on the south side of the chancel; nothing more, however, can be said of it, than that it is "an ordinary picture of the Lord's Supper."

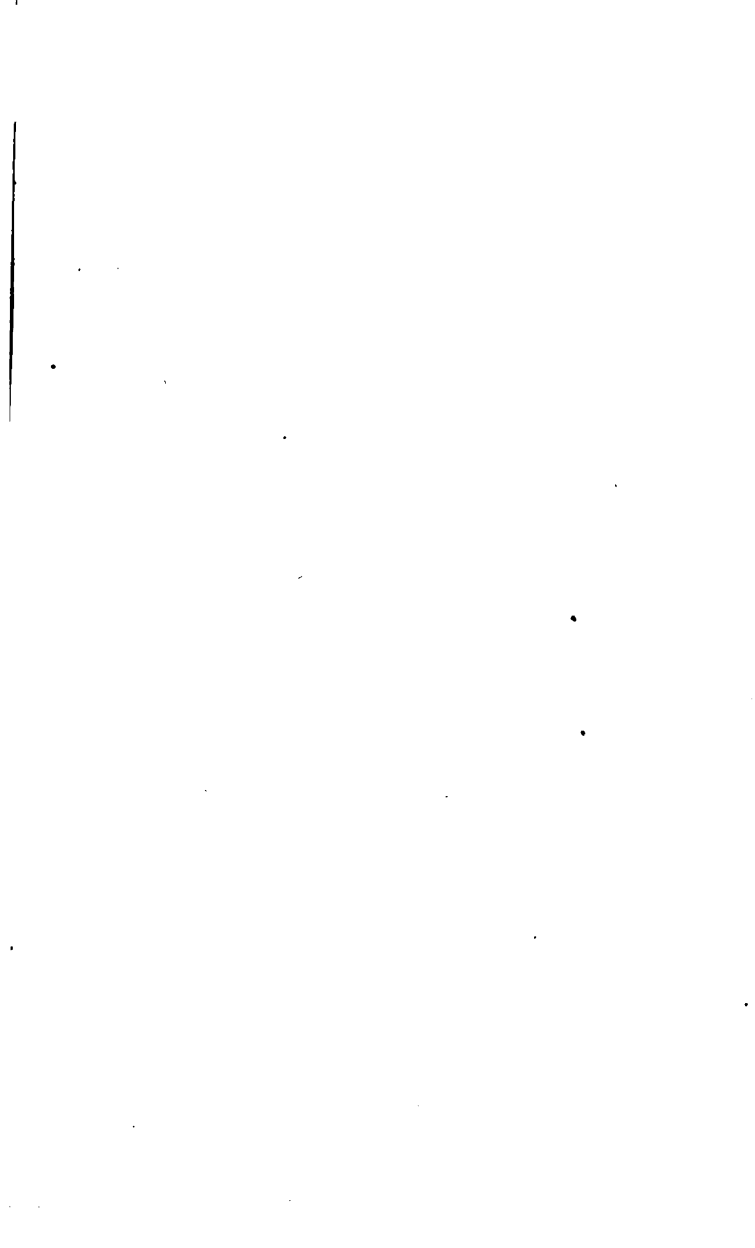


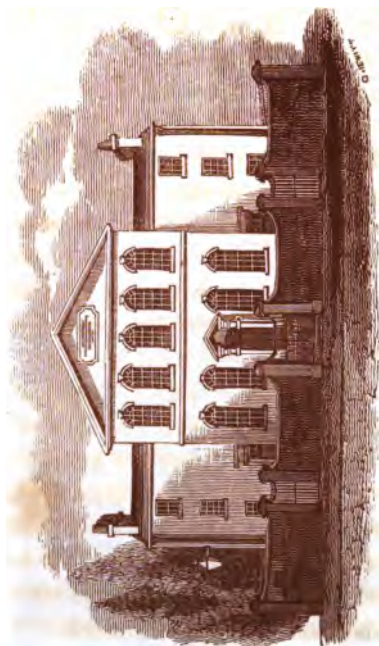
Gilt, 1 lesser Bowl, 2 Wine Bowls, 2 Silver Salts, 12 Silver Spoons, and one Silver Mace.—Lady Frances Pierpoint, relict of Sr. Henry Pierpoint, of Holme Pierpoint, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. Kt. gave an annuity of £10. to be yearly given to Ten of the most poor and aged people of this Town, and appointed the then Chapter of Southwell, and their successors, trustees for the same.—Sir Geo. Savile of Rufford, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. Bart. now Marquess of Hallifax, gave to the re-building of this Church the sum of 20 pounds.—The Right Hon. Geo. Viscount Castleton, of Sandbecke, Cou<sup>y</sup> York, gave a great quantity of stone by which y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants were enabled to finish so good a work.—Sr. Edw<sup>d</sup> Neville, of Grove, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. Kt. and Bart. gave to this Corporation, a very stately Silver Mace to be borne before Mr. Senior Bailiff.—Sr. W<sup>m</sup> Hickman, of Gainsbro', Cou<sup>y</sup> Lin<sup>a</sup> Bart. gave to the Church 2 large Silver Flaggons, 1 large Chalice with cover, 1 large Salver for the Communion Plate.—W<sup>m</sup> Clarke of Walkeringham, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. gave by his last will 3 Pounds, to be distributed by equal portions at Lady Day and Michaelmas yearly, to 3 aged poor people and honest behaviour of this town, which sum is to be paid by his heirs for ever, out of his lands, of Gainsbro', Morton, and Walkrith, Cou<sup>y</sup> Lin<sup>a</sup> and y<sup>e</sup> Minister and Churchwardens, are authorized by the said will to enter and distraine upon y<sup>e</sup> said lands in case y<sup>e</sup> said sum be not paid accordingly.—Richard Sleswicke of this town, Gent. gave all his lands and tenements whatsoever, lying here or in West Retford, to y<sup>e</sup> building and maintaining an Hospitall for 3 poor men of this Town, chosen by the Bailiffs and Aldermen, for the time being, who are, by Decree of Chancery, appointed Trustees for the same.—John Smith, of Worksop, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. gave to this town, 4 Pounds, in consideration that the Bailiffs, for y<sup>e</sup> time being, pay yearly unto the Churchwardens eight shillings, to be distributed upon the feast

of St. Thomas, Apostle, and upon Good Friday, to the most poor and impotent people of this town, at y<sup>e</sup> discretion of the Minister and Churchwardens, for y<sup>e</sup> time being.—John Coulby of this town, Tanner, gave 5 shillings more to be paid yearly to y<sup>e</sup> Churchwardens, for y<sup>e</sup> use of this Church, and 5 shillings more to be paid yearly to y<sup>e</sup> Overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor, for y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> poor, and charged a dwelling house of his on the south side of y<sup>e</sup> Church for y<sup>e</sup> payment of the same.—Mr. William Haughton, late Minister of Ordsall, Cou<sup>y</sup> Notts. gave several Tenements and Lands situated and lying in y<sup>e</sup> town and parish of Ordsall, to y<sup>e</sup> Free School of this Town, and appointed the then Bailiffs and Burgesses, and their successors, trustees for the same, that they should out of the rents and profits thereof annually pay unto y<sup>e</sup> Head Schoolmaster, the sum of 4 pounds, upon y<sup>e</sup> 1st of Jan<sup>y</sup> & y<sup>e</sup> remainder of y<sup>e</sup> rents and profits to y<sup>e</sup> Usher.—W<sup>m</sup> Wharton of this Town, Gent. gave to the honest poor people thereof, 40 Pounds, and appointed y<sup>e</sup> then Bailiffs and Aldermen, Minister, & their Successors, trustees, enabling them to dispose of it to y<sup>e</sup> best advantage, and y<sup>e</sup> rent or interest to be by them annually distributed.—On another table on the north side is the following:—Mr. Ald<sup>r</sup> Geo. Popplewell, by Will in 1784, gave into the hands of the Corporation of Retford, Fifty Pounds, the interest to be distributed by the Bailiffs annually, to the poor of this parish.—Mrs. Sarah Brown, of Sheffield, by Will in 1795, gave into the hands of the Corporation of Retford, 20 Guineas, the Interest to be applied for the teaching of two poor Girls in reading and needlework.—Mrs. Anne Woolby, by Will in 1812, gave to the Bailiffs of this Town, an annuity of six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, charged upon Two Closes in Clarbrough Parish, called Longholme, to be distributed by the Vicar to twenty of the oldest and poorest widows or singlewomen of East Retford, every Christmas.

*A Catalogue of the Vicars of East Retford.*

| TEMP. INST.              | VICARII ECCLE.                                                     | PATRONI.                                 | VACAT.                                                                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |                                                                    | Sacrista<br>Capelle<br>bte Mar.<br>Ebor. |                                                                         |
| 8 Id. Sep. 1317          | Dms. John de Sutton, de Haytefeld<br>Dioc .....                    | ijdem                                    | .                                                                       |
| 6 Kal. Feb. 1318         | Dms. Richard de Shirburn, Pbr....<br>Dms. Roger de Dale, Pbr ..... | ijdem<br>ijdem                           |                                                                         |
| 3 Oct. 1349              | Dms. William Fulburn, Cap.....                                     | ijdem                                    | pro.resig<br>pro. vic.<br>de Mirne<br>p. Mort                           |
| 12 April 1358            | Dms. Roger de Waddeworth, Pbr                                      | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
| 28 Nov. 1361             | Dms. John Gelle, Cap .....                                         | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
|                          | Dms. John de Eton .....                                            | ijdem                                    | p. Resig<br>pro<br>Eccl.a.de<br>Scamp.<br>tonLinc.<br>Dioc.<br>p. Mort. |
| 24 August, 1364          | Dms. Robert de Hay, Cap .....                                      | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
| 9 Sep. 1365              | Dms. Thomas de Claworth, Cap ..<br>Dms. Thomas de Southorp.....    | ijdem<br>ijdem                           |                                                                         |
| 15 July 1415             | Dms. Robert Cave, Pbr .....                                        | ijdem                                    | p. Resig.                                                               |
| 9 Junii 1421             | Dms. Robert Castleleyn, Pbr.....                                   | ijdem                                    | p. Mort.                                                                |
| 26 Dec. 1422             | Dms. Robert Holme, Pbr .....                                       | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
|                          | Dms. Richard Westeby, Pbr.....                                     | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
| 16 Feb. 1463             | Dms. John Luffday, Pbr.....                                        | ijdem                                    | p. Mort.                                                                |
| 14 July 1464             | Dms. Thomas Margery, Pbr .....                                     | ijdem                                    | p. Resig                                                                |
| 12 Sep. 1464             | Dms. William Billingley, Pbr. ..                                   | ijdem                                    | p. resig                                                                |
| 25 July, 1467            | Dms. John Gegge, Pbr .....                                         | ijdem                                    | p mort                                                                  |
| 10 Jan. 1483             | Dms. Robert Gill, Cap .....                                        | ijdem                                    | p mort                                                                  |
| 5 Jan. 1485              | Mr. Edmund Pershay, Pbr .....                                      | ijdem                                    | p resig                                                                 |
| 11 Dec. 1486             | Mr. Thomas Karlille, Pbr .....                                     | ijdem                                    | p resig                                                                 |
| 16 Nov. 1490             | Dms. Adam Nicholson.....                                           | ijdem                                    | p dimis.                                                                |
| 15 Aug. 1497             | Dms. Hugo Bawgy, Pbr .....                                         | ijdem                                    | p mort                                                                  |
| 18 Feb. 1506             | Dms. John Helwes, Pbr.....                                         | Æpus vac,<br>Sacr.                       | p mort                                                                  |
| 4 Feb. 1512              | Dms. John Helwys, Pbr.....                                         | Sacr.<br>Capelle                         | p mort                                                                  |
| 3 Feb. 1521              | Dms. John Coltman, Pbr .....                                       | ijdem                                    | p resig                                                                 |
| 16 Oct. 1536             | Dms. John Thackbarrow, Pbr ....                                    | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
| 22 Junii 1565            | Dms. Nic. Holwell, Cl .....                                        | P. and M.<br>Regus                       | p mort                                                                  |
| 22 Mali 1573             | Alvered Tempest, Cl .....                                          | Eliz. Reg.                               |                                                                         |
| 14 Junii 1588            | Christopher Say, Cl .....                                          | eadem                                    |                                                                         |
| 24 Feb. 1617             | George Turwyn, Cl .....                                            | eadem                                    | p mort                                                                  |
|                          | Jac. Colley, Pbr. B. A. ....                                       | Will. Dms<br>Cavendish.                  | p mort                                                                  |
| 22 Sep. 1618             | John Watt, Cl. M. A. ....                                          | Will. Com<br>Devons.                     | p mort                                                                  |
| Ult. March, 1640<br>1661 | Henry Bate, B. A. ....                                             | ijdem                                    |                                                                         |
|                          | Tim. Luddington, Cl .....                                          |                                          | p mort                                                                  |
| 11 July, 1674            | Guil. Wintringham, Cl. B. A. ....                                  | Will.Com.<br>Devon.                      | p mort                                                                  |
| ----- 1701               | Rev. Thomas Gylby, M. A. ....                                      | ijdem                                    | p mort                                                                  |
| ----- 1751               | Rev. Joshua Sampson.....                                           | The King<br>Duke of<br>Devon.            | p mort                                                                  |
| ----- 1772               | Rev. Richard Morton, M. A.....                                     | Sir R. Sut-<br>ton, Bart.                | p mort                                                                  |
| ----- 1821               | Rev. Thomas F. Beckwith.....                                       |                                          |                                                                         |





*Methodist Chapel.*

**THE METHODIST CHAPEL,**

Of which the accompanying engraving presents an accurate delineation, is situate at the east end of Newgate Street, and was erected in 1823. Previous to that time\* however, the Methodists were not devoid of a place of worship; this building was in Meeting House Lane (a narrow street branching from Carrhill gate,) and to which it imparted its name. This building had been erected upwards of fifty years. From the increase in the frequenters of that place, it was found to be too small for their accommodation, in consequence of which, the present edifice was erected. It cannot be said, that the interior possesses any thing like grandeur, but it is generally allowed to be upon a methodical and well-arranged plan, being capable of seating upwards of eleven hundred persons. Behind this is the vestry, as well as a spacious school room used on the sabbath day; a burial ground is also attached to the premises. On each side of the chapel is a house for the accommodation of the preachers stationed in the circuit. Hours of service on sundays are at ten in the morning, two in the afternoon, and six in the evening; also on monday evenings at seven o'clock.

---

\* In Mr. Wesley's Journal I find the following entry.—“June 24th, 1780, I preached at New Inn; afterwards at Newark, one of the most elegant towns in England; and in the evening at Retford, on, *I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God*’.”

A small white marble tablet, edged with black, commemorates the death of Mr. Clater, the celebrated author of "Every man his own Farrier, and Cattle Doctor," as follows—

In memory of FRANCIS CLATER, of this place, who departed this life on the 29th May, 1823, aged 67 years—much respected.

#### INDEPENDENT DISSENTERS' CHAPEL.

This is a plain brick building, situate on the south side of Chapelgate, directly on the confines of the parish, and was erected upwards of thirty years ago by a lady of the name of Bond, who resided at Morton, near Gainsbro': at this period it was dedicated solely to the worship of those dissenters who had embraced the tenets of the Countess of Huntingdon; it continued to be used in that connexion for some years, and was then shut up for a season: after a succession of changes it was finally purchased by William Brownlow, Esq. of London, a gentleman well known in the religious world for numerous charitable and benevolent acts, who vested it in the hands of trustees, and presented the use thereof to the Society of Independent Dissenters, resident in the town and neighbourhood, in order that it might continue to be devoted to the purposes for which it was originally intended. The interior, though small, has an air of neatness, and appears to have been constructed rather with an attention to the accommodation of the pious, than with a view to adventitious decoration. Adjoining the south end of the

chapel is a school room, where a number of scholars are gratuitously instructed in reading, spelling, &c. on the sabbath day.

The hours appointed for the performance of divine service are, on the Lord's day, at half-past ten in the morning, and half-past six in the evening; a public lecture is also delivered every wednesday evening.

On the west wall is placed a small marble tablet, bearing the following inscription,—

Sacred to the memory of RICHARD BULLIVANT, who died the 17th September, 1821, aged 34 years. He was benevolent and generous, active in the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom, and deservedly esteemed both as a man and a christian, by all who knew him.



## CHAP. VII.

**The Free Grammar School—The National School—Heswicke's Hospital—The Alms Houses—The Dorcas Charity, &c.**

---

### THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

KING Edward the sixth, on the petition as well of the bailiffs and burgesses of East Retford as of very many others of the whole neighbouring country for the erecting and establishing of a grammar school there, granted and ordained that there should be a grammar school in the town of East Retford, which should be called "**The Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth,**"

for the education and instruction of boys and youths in grammar. And for the sustentation of the said school, his Majesty granted the then late Chantry of Sutton in Loundale, within the parish of Lound, in this County, in the several tenures or occupations of Richard Styrroppe, John Waddesley, William Hollewell, John Thorpe, Christopher Whytethorne, and William More-

ton, situate in Sutton, in Loundale, aforesaid. His Majesty also further granted all the then Chantry of Tuxford, with all its appurtenances thereto belonging, then in the several tenures or occupations of William Ingham, John Elme, John Cuthbert, and Robert Gab-bites, situate in Kyrton or elsewhere in this County. His Majesty also further granted all the then late Chantry of Anysley, with all its appurtenances thereto belonging, then or late in the several tenures or occupations of John Pynnor, Edmund Vathley, Richard Mayfield, Christopher Bynk, Christopher North, Nicholas Bagley, and John Sterman, situate, lying, and being in Kyrbie, Ashfield, Morton, Anysley, and Bleeshye, or elsewhere in this County, with the appurtenances to the said Chantries, or each of them, in any manner belonging; and which messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, and all other premises, were then extended to the clear yearly value of *Fifteen pounds five shillings and threepence farthing*, to hold the same to the aforesaid burgesses of the town of East Retford, and their successors, for ever. His Majesty also gave the said bailiffs and burgesses, and their successors, authority to nominate and appoint a master and undermaster, as often as such situations should become vacant; and that they, with the advice of the Archbishop of York for the time being, should have power from time to time to make fit and proper statutes for the government and direction of the master and

undermaster, touching and concerning the same school. His Majesty also granted them authority to receive and purchase to them and their successors, any other lands and hereditaments, not exceeding the clear yearly value of twenty pounds sterling; and also willed and ordained, that all the issues, rents, revenues, and profits, as well of the said messuages, lands, and tenements, given and granted, as of all other the lands and hereditaments thereafter to be obtained and purchased, should from time to time be laid out and expended for the support and maintenance of the school aforesaid, and of the master and undermaster of the same school, or for other things, touching and concerning the same.

In conformity with the King's ordinance, the bailiffs and burgesses of East Retford with the advice of Holgate, Lord Archbishop of York, agreed upon the rules and regulations which are dated the 30th of April, 1552, for the government of the said school, wherein the course of study and discipline is prescribed; it was also ordered that two sufficient houses should be provided for the master and undermaster, rent-free; and that of the above mentioned sum of fifteen pounds five shillings and three pence farthing, the master should receive for his annual salary, the sum of Ten Pounds, and the undermaster the remainder; with such an increase afterwards as to the bailiffs and burgesses might seem convenient to make. From this period it does not exactly appear what the master's salary was until

the year 1764, when it is stated to be £29 per annum including £4. the interest of certain property which had been bequeathed by the Rev. William Houghton, consisting of an estate at Ordsall; the will is dated June 23rd, 1763, and devises that £4. should be paid yearly to the head master, on the 1st of January, and the remainder unto the usher; the estate is now let at about £28 per annum. The master's salary remained stationary from 1763 to 1801, at which period the present master was appointed, when it was raised to £53. and in 1813 it was further augmented to £80. a year, but no salary has been paid him since Lady-Day, 1821. From 1763 to 1801, the usher's salary was £21 and from thence to within the last few years £30 per annum; at present it is £40.

The property of the Chantry of Tuxford is stated in the letters patent to have been situate at Kirton, and elsewhere; but the Corporation are not at present in possession of any estates at Tuxford or at Kirton. By a deed dated the 30th of April, 1583, the estate at Tuxford was sold for £50. and conveyed to John Whyte, gent. and his heirs. This estate has lately been purchased by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. The remaining property in this Chantry appears to lie at Kirton; and by indenture dated the 22nd of November, 1552, was granted to William Ingham, and Isabel his wife, for a term of 21 years, on the surrender of two former leases granted by John Cresswell, then late

chantry priest at Tuxford; the reserved rent of the property, which is described as two farms of husbandry, &c. &c. in Kirton, being 40*s.* annually. In 1638 a lease was granted to the Earl of Kingston, of two farms in Kirton, at the rent of 40*s.*; and another lease for 21 years dated 1647, of the same premises, to the Marquis of Dorchester, son of the Earl of Kingston, at the same annual rent; the quantity of land appearing to have been about 90 acres. By indenture bearing date the 11th of August, 1656, the bailiffs and burgesses, in consideration of the sum of £300.\* demised the said premises at Kirton and East Markham, to the Earl of Clare, and his heirs, for a thousand years, at the several reserved annual rents of 40*s.* for the premises at Kirton, and 17*s.* for those in West Markham. The property is now belonging to the Duke of Newcastle, whose estate in Kirton alone, is understood to consist of about 150 acres, and to produce a rent of about £200. a year.

The property then appertaining to the Annesley Chantry appears to have been situate at Kirkby in Ashfield, Annesley, Moreton, and Bleesby; but the Corporation are not at present in possession of any property at Kirkby in Ashfield or Annesley; that belonging to them at Moreton, consists of a house, 15 acres of land, and

---

\* For an account of this property, and the way in which the proceeds were applied, see the account of "the Parish Church."

a gate on Moreton Common, valued at about £22. per annum. The estates of the Corporation at Bleesby consist of four houses and about 120 acres of land, letting at about £158. per annum; but the Corporation claim part of these in their own right, as in several of the schedules annexed to old leases, lands are described as lying betwixt, and in other instances bounded by lands belonging to the School at East Retford; and that one of the schedules containing such reference is entitled "Schedule of the lands belonging to the Corporation;" but since the Commissioners of Charities came, their report sets forth "that it is incumbent on the Corporation to make out the distinction between them," and in which they have failed. The estate at Lound belonging to the Corporation, consists of a house and 84 acres of land, which is let at about £105. per annum.

Towards the conclusion of the seventeenth century, certain proceedings were instituted against the then bailiffs, &c. under a commission to redress the misemployment of lands, goods, and stocks of money theretofore given to charitable uses, when the Jury found on inquisition taken before the Commissioners, that the rents, profits, &c. had been misapplied for 79 years; and the Commissioners decreed that the bailiffs and burgesses should within one month after notice of the decree, pay to the then master, (Mr. Henry Boawre) the sum of £3372. 4s. 4d. being the amount of monies

withheld from the charity; and further ordered that they should pay yearly to the schoolmaster the whole of the rents of the said lands and premises, and such sums as they should afterwards receive from any leases thereof. Exceptions were taken to this decree on account of the extent of certain laws under which the Commissioners had acted, and afterwards an answer was put in to the exceptions, but nothing more was done in the case; most likely the abandonment was produced by it being found that the decree could not be supported in consequence of the exceptions in the statute.

The present building (which is situate on the north side of Chapelgate) was erected in the year 1779, on the site of the old school-room, at an expense of £290 and a new house adjoining, for the residence of the master, was built in 1797, which cost £360. and afterwards a further amount of £94. was expended in improvements and additional buildings. In the year 1810, the usher's house was built at the charge of £556. 16s. 8d. upon the scite of the old houses formerly occupied both by the master and usher; thus the total amount expended on the buildings, &c. of the school and its appendages is £1301. 17s. 8d.

In the year 1819, the Commissioners, appointed by an Act of Parliament, for inspecting the different charities in England and Wales, visited this place for the purpose of looking into the documents in possession

of the Corporation, and of hearing such evidence relative thereto, as they might be able to obtain: the Commissioners were engaged several days, and notwithstanding the most diligent search, it was found that several ancient documents, which would have been of considerable use in the investigation, were not forthcoming. In order however to account for this, it appears from a memorandum in the possession of the Corporation taken during the proceedings in the Court of Chancery, in 1699, that a hutch, wherein the writings belonging to the Corporation were formerly deposited, was kept in the church, and that when the church fell in 1651, the hutch was broken to pieces, and many of the writings lost or destroyed.

Since 1819 a partial hearing of the case has been had before the Vice Chancellor, when it was ordered that the whole of the documents appertaining thereto should be laid before one of the masters in chancery, who should report thereupon.

#### **THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.**

It appears that amongst the ancients a system of national education was considered as essentially necessary towards the well-being of the community, and highly conducive to train a citizen from birth to maturity, in such a manner, that he might be prepared to perform the civil duties of his station, and assist in the defence of his country: hence the histories of Persia,



of Greece, and of Rome, clearly prove, that so long as this system, under certain modifications, continued general and operative in these countries, they were safe ; the magistrate was incorruptible—the citizen was virtuous. The clergy of the established church, in this country, were not unacquainted with this fact, and to provide the like security for England, they, in conjunction with other influential individuals, succeeded in establishing National Schools, where the children of the poor are admitted at such an age when their minds are most susceptible of those impressions which are necessary to the formation of a good and useful character.

The National School, for boys only, is situate on the south side of Chapelgate, and was erected in the year 1813 ; it is seventy-five feet nine inches in length, and thirty-nine feet nine inches in width, and is capable of accommodating 160 scholars. It was first opened on the 20th September, 1813, under the presidency of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, for the purpose of promoting the education of the poor, in the principles of the Church of England, (on Dr. Bell's system,) auxiliary to the National Society established in London, under the patronage of his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales. At this period, and for some years afterwards, it was well supported by a long list of voluntary contributions ; but latterly, from the deaths of subscribers, and other causes, the funds have been in a de

clining state, and without the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood come forward in its behalf, not only its success, but its duration will be extremely dubious.

From the beneficial effects which have already been produced on the characters of several, who have now arrived at manhood, and who received their instruction under its roof, it is surely not too much to request,—and that most earnestly, that the charitable, and those who are favourable to the ameliorating the condition of the lower orders of society, will come forward in its behalf, remembering that the religious education of the poor tends to make them not only better men, and better subjects, but also better christians:

**TREASURERS.**—*Sir W. B. Cooke, Bart. Childers, Foljambe, and Parker.*

**SECRETARIES.**—*Rev. T. F. Beckwith, and Rev. William Mould.*

**MASTER.**—*Mr. J. S. Piercy.*

#### **SLESWICKE'S HOSPITAL.**

The following summary of the will of the donor, made the 5th of May, 1657, will explain all the circumstances appertaining thereto.

Richard Sleswicke, by will, (dated as above,) bequeathed certain of his property to his wife, and one year after her decease, to descend to Edmond Midwinter. The remainder of his property he bequeathed to Edward Neville, Esq. Francis Stringer, Esq. John Rayner, Gent. of Great Drayton, William Booth, of Laneham, and Mr. Widwinter, in trust, “for the maintenance of six poore old men of good carriage and be-

haviour, every of them to receive three pounds six shillings and eight pence yearly at flower times in the year." His then dwelling house was ordered to be converted into "a hospital and charitable house, to be titled and called by the name of *Messe de Dieu*" those of his own blood and kindred falling into poverty to be preferred thereunto before any other. The accounts relating thereto to be audited annually in the week next before Easter, at which a dinner was to be provided out of the funds of the estate. The will was proved during the protectorate of Cromwell, on the 22nd of May, 1658.

For some years the trust was properly attended to, until about 1680, when from the deaths of nearly the whole of the trustees, it became the subject of a chancery suit; the decree relating thereto was made on the 16th of July, 1681, whereby it was ordered that Francis Stringer, of Sutton, the only surviving trustee, should give up his trust, which in future should be vested in the Corporation of East Retford; this took place on the 29th of July, in the same year.

In consequence of the building being old and much decayed, the Corporate body resolved to pull it down, and erect a new one in its stead; this was done in 1806: over the entrance which fronts the west end of the church, is the following inscription.—"*Mease de Dieu, ex dono, Richardi Sloswicke Generosi, re-built 1806. Beaumont Marshall, George Thornton, Gent.*"

*Bailiffs.* It is finished in the mezzo-gothic style of architecture, and forms a comfortable asylum to those whom age and infirmities have reduced to become its inmates. Of late years it has chiefly been filled up by aged burgesses, and others, who were pensioners on the Corporation funds; but however great may be the claims which burgesses possess, I apprehend the donor never contemplated that it should be appropriated to their benefit exclusive of other inhabitants resident in the borough, if such had been his intentions they would undoubtedly have been so expressed in the Will, but so far from that being the case, neither the Corporation nor burgesses are either mentioned or hinted at. At present the allowance to each poor man is two shillings weekly. The estate originally left for its support, lets for £83 a year and upwards.

#### THE ALMS HOUSES.

It is generally understood that the documents relating to this ancient charity are entirely lost, and that the estates with which it was endowed have either been sold, or so mixed up with the other estates of the Corporation, as to be undistinguishable. Who the founder was is likewise involved in the same mystery. Until 1823 the Alms Houses occupied a place on the west side of Carrhillgate, but were in such a dilapidated condition, that the Corporation resolved to take them down; the site was sold, and the present building

erected near Chapelgate, forming part of the west side of an intended street, from thence to Newgate Street. The number of houses have been augmented from seven to nine, each of which affords shelter to two poor women, who are appointed by the Corporation; which, with the exception of a certain quantity of coals yearly, comprises the whole of the benefits they receive.

#### THE DORCAS CHARITY.

Under the foregoing title a charity was instituted in January, 1823, for the purpose of furnishing the poor with clothing at a cheap rate. Patroness, Her Grace the Duchess Dowager of Newcastle. At present it is supported by annual subscriptions of 5s.\* each from about one hundred and twenty individuals of the town and neighbourhood; and judging from the last published report, its finances are in a flourishing condition, (having a balance in the savings bank of £73 5s. 4d.) The business is superintended by eight ladies, and a treasurer; and any poor person wishing to be relieved must apply to a subscriber for a ticket, upon shewing which, on the day of sale, they are allowed to purchase such articles (at half price) as they or their children stand most in need of. The number of individuals

---

\* There are those who subscribe more: 10s. entitles a subscriber to two tickets; 15s. to three; and of £1 and upwards to four.

benefitted by this charity during each year amounts nearly to two hundred.

**TREASURER.**—*Mrs. Beckwith.* **SECRETARY.**—*Rev. T. F. Beckwith.*

#### **BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.**

This Borough contains five of those useful and provident associations, called "Sick Clubs," which at present are held at the different public houses; but in consequence of a deficiency in the funds, it has been in agitation to have the business transacted in a private room, and to be at no expence whatever save a dinner at the anniversary. The "St. George's Independent Lodge of Odd Fellows," have likewise a fund in a highly flourishing condition, and from the principles upon which it is founded, no doubt is entertained of its being a great and lasting benefit to those brothers who are members thereof.


Besides these institutions there are others both of a charitable and religious nature, such as the Lying-in Charity, the Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, &c. &c. which our confined space alone prevents from more particular notice.

## CHAP. VIII.

Public Buildings, Works, &c.—The Square, &c.  
—The Town Hall—The Theatre—The News  
Room—The Post Office—The Bank—The  
Workhouse—The Bridge—The Broad Stone.

---

### THE SQUARE, AND THE MARKET PLACE.

THERE is perhaps no town of the same magnitude in England that can boast of a more spacious Square and Market Place, than this; in form it is a kind of  and let the stranger approach it from what quarter soever he may, his mind will at once be impressed with the neatness and elegance which is every where visible around him. The Great North Road, in a kind of circuitous direction, runs through the centre of it; when journeying northward, the traveller has the Market Place to the right, and the Square to the left. The old Town Hall, which stood upon the same ground as the present one, was erected in 1389, and pulled down in 1754.

About one hundred and thirty years ago the Market Place was unpaved, and a ditch, or common-sewer, was

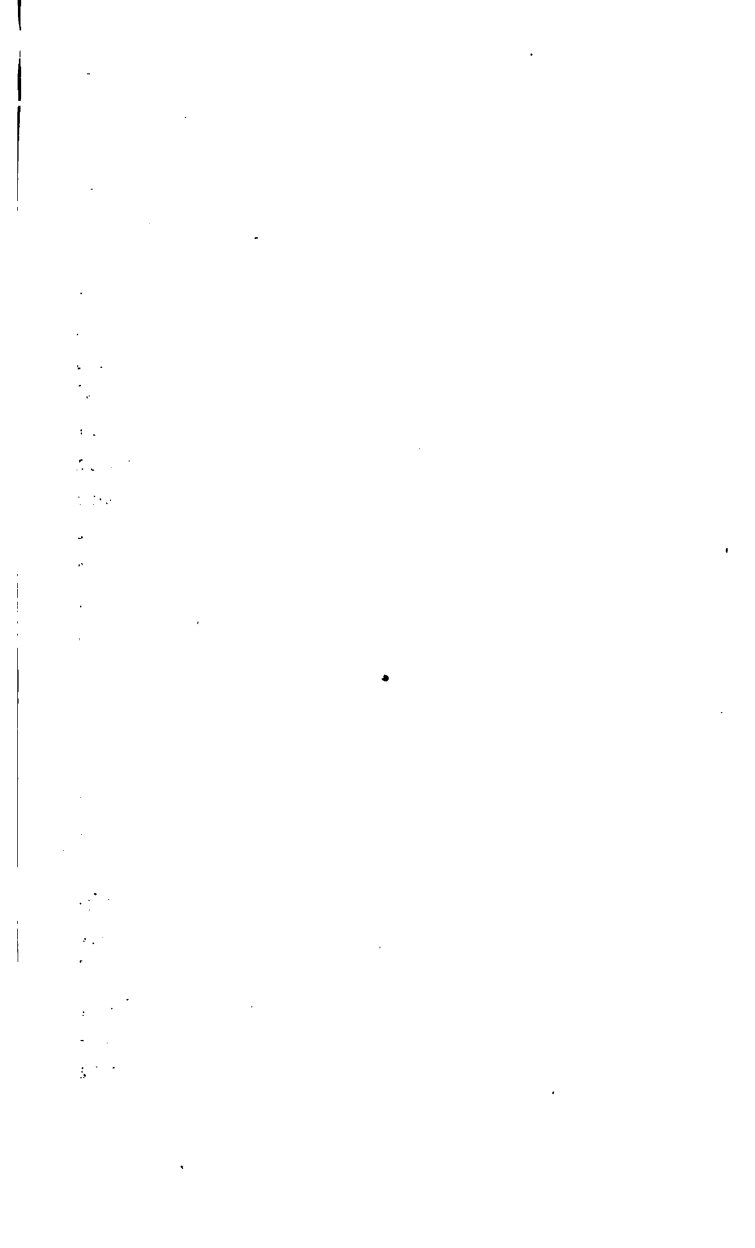
open from north to south, by the side of which stood five old trees ; in consequence however, of the ill effects which the noxious effluvia arising therefrom, had upon the health of the inhabitants, it was ordered to be covered in, the trees were taken away, and the Market place paved in a regular manner. There is, however, no doubt but that it had been paved at some antecedent period, as a pitched pavement, about three feet below the present one, has been found in several parts of the town.

The west side of the Square is chiefly occupied as private residences, at the west end of the south side is the banking establishment of Messrs. Sir W. B. Cooke, Bart. & Co. the major part of the remaining buildings are converted into respectable shops. The market is held on saturday ; and, according to one of the charters, the Corporation have the right of taking tolls upon corn, &c. coming into the market for sale, which right they formerly exercised, but of late years it has been liberally dispensed with. At a common hall held on the 18th of March, 1776, "It was ordered that the tolls of corn, fruit, and the bridge be free from the 5th of April following," and the resolution was ordered to be advertised in the Nottingham, York, and Cambridge papers. There is one evil however yet remaining which demands particular notice, but, by directing the attention of the proper authorities thereto, it will probably be shortly remedied ; I allude to the practice



of forestalling, which is here carried on to a most shameful extent, to the great injury of the inhabitants; this not only extends to the buying up of the fruit, &c. (by the hucksters, who attend here from Sheffield, and other parts of the south of Yorkshire,) but also to butter, fowls, eggs, &c. Surely a stop might be put to this increasing evil: if the Corporation would appoint a proper person to look after these matters, and determinately resolve to punish all those dealers who are found guilty of regrating or forestalling, we should then cease to hear the numerous complaints which are weekly made; the town's people would have an opportunity of enjoying the necessaries of life at a more moderate rate,—the poor would be greatly benefitted, and the inhabitants generally would hail it as a measure fraught with the most advantageous consequences.

The market which is held on saturday is tolerably well supplied with fish from Hull, which, in consequence of the steam packets plying daily from that port to Gainsbro', is generally fresh, and of a good quality: river fish is also plentiful, and the large eels from the Idle need no recommendation here. The shambles are supplied with beef, mutton, &c. not inferior to any in the kingdom; indeed few places are so advantageously situated in this respect as Retford. To the east of the town is the finest tract of rich grazing land, along the course of the river Trent, that England can produce; whilst to the west the mutton which is fed from





*Town Hall.*

the produce of sandy soils fully supports the name which from time immemorial has characterized the breed of forest sheep. The fairs are two in the year, viz. on the 23rd of March, for cattle, &c. and on the 2nd of October, for hops, cheese, &c. A hop market was likewise established a few years back, it is held on the first saturday in November.

#### **THE TOWN HALL.**

It is greatly to be regretted that whilst other places have had their historians, and their draughtsmen, Retford should for centuries have been devoid of both; this deficiency cannot however, be said to have arisen from a lack of objects, because, (until within the last century) few places of the same size could boast of a greater variety, amongst which the old Moot Hall, may not inappropriately be mentioned; now however, no traces of it are left, and no sketch, to my knowledge, at present in existence. In form it was something similar to the present one, though of smaller dimensions, built on the same site, chiefly of wood, in the post and pan style; the roof very long, and covered with heavy slates; the windows, of which it contained six, were totally devoid of glass, its place being supplied by iron stauncheons, with doors of wood inside to prevent the intrusion of the weather; the main front was to the east, with the entrance in the centre, its approach being by a flight of very broad stone or wooden steps.

The roof was surmounted by a small cupola, of a very antiquated appearance, containing a bell, but no clock; this bell was rung at the commencement of the markets, and was also used for summoning the inhabitants to attend the courts, the sessions, &c. Underneath the hall, were the shambles similar to the present. The body of the hall was usually appropriated to the performance of theatrical and other amusements, until at length it was deemed imperatively necessary to take it down, to prevent it from falling, and on the 5th of August, 1754, the Corporation resolved upon its demolition.

The foundation of the present structure was laid in the year 1755; great precaution was used to secure its permanency, in consequence of the defective state of the sub-soil, the corners as well as some other parts were laid upon old millstones: the elevation is from two plans, one by Mr. White, and another by Mr. Watson; the former gentleman devised the decorations over the centre window, the latter nearly the whole of the remainder. In the tympan, which forms a triangular projection, are placed the armorial bearings of the town, which are two falcons respecting each other, upon a handsome shield, cut in freestone. The centre of the roof is finished by a neat cupola, surmounted by the four quarters of the horizon and a weathercock; under this the bell on which the clock strikes, is suspended, and a dial is placed on each of the principal

quarters. The entrance is at the north end, and the visitor is particularly struck with the neatness and elegance which presents itself to the eye on entering the place; at the upper end of the room,—which is seventy feet by twenty-six feet, and twenty feet high, is an elevated bench, and upon the floor, a table, &c. used for the purposes of the quarter sessions which are here held for the borough, as well as those for the northern division of the county; this end is circularly finished, and the diameter is supported by four light fluted pillars of the Ionic order, which make an elegant finish to the part appropriated to the administration of justice. This room is extremely well lighted by twelve square-headed windows, the upper parts of which are plain and neat: on the inner side, over the entrance, is a triangular pediment highly ornamental, the upper angle of which is terminated by an artificial basket of flowers, executed in a superior manner: the workmanship of the ceiling displays considerable taste, more especially the centre and spandrills; the trellis work being completed by four ornamental knots; the whole finished by a rich and handsome cornice. To the left of the magisterial bench is a pair of folding doors leading to the council room, which is used by the Grand Jury at the sessions: this room is twenty feet by twenty-six feet, and though completed in a plain manner, with the exception of having a cornice similar to that in the great room, yet a degree of neatness characterizes the whole.

Over the fire place is a well executed portrait of King James the First, in his full robes of state, presented to the Corporation by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle : to the left is a large closet where the books belonging to the Retford Bench are kept ; and to the right is the hutch where the charters and other documents, pertaining to the Corporation, are deposited. In this room the meetings of the body Corporate are held, and here also, the county Magistrates hold a petty sessions every other saturday. The great room is appropriated to the assemblies of the gentry of the town and neighbourhood, which are here, like angels' visits—"few and far between ;" other public meetings too, are by permission of the bailiffs, generally held in this place. Underneath these two rooms are the shambles ; the situation is perfectly adapted to the purpose, and great care has been taken in their formation for cleanliness and convenience, so much so, that a recent traveller describes them as being "the best in the county."

#### THE THEATRE

Is situate on the west side, and nearly in the centre, of Carrhillgate, and was erected in 1789, by the late Mr. Pero, then manager of this circuit, who purchased the ground of the late Sir Thomas Woolaston White, Bart. Its exterior appearance is certainly not of a very imposing nor prepossessing character, but its interior, (from the improvements and decorations which it has

recently received from the pencil of Mr. Fraser) certainly entitles it to rank in the second class of country theatres. Its dimensions however, it is to be regretted, are too circumscribed, and, from a combination of local circumstances, do not admit of any enlargement on the ground plan. The house is calculated at the ordinary prices of 3s. boxes, 2s. pit, and 1s. gallery, to hold from £40 to £50. The *corps dramatique* generally attend once in the year, and upon the whole have been tolerably well patronized, for which Mr. Manly, the present highly respected manager, from his high and public spirited conduct in catering for the public amusement, is entitled to the thanks of all those who profess to be lovers of the drama. Several of the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood have, at times, become its patrons. It is worthy of remark, by way of conclusion, that this was one of the earliest provincial theatres that the celebrated Master Betty visited in his professional tour. Miss Fearon, now Madam Fearon, delighted the Retford audience before she appeared on the London stage; and during the last year Miss Foote gratified the admirers of the drama here with a fine specimen of her abilities.

## THE NEWS ROOM

Is situate on the east side of the Market Place, and was erected by the Corporation some years ago. The subscribers, which consist of about forty gentlemen of



the town and vicinage, are admitted by ballot the first tuesdays in January, April, July, and October, and pay each an annual subscription of £1. 11s. 6d. No strangers are admitted but through the introduction of a member, except officers of the army and navy. Subscribers confined by illness have the use of any paper the day after its arrival, except the sunday papers, which are not allowed to be taken away until the following tuesday. The room is commodious and suitably adapted to the purposes to which it is appropriated, and contains full length portraits of George the Second, and his consort Caroline, presented a few years back by Lord Viscount Galway.

#### THE POST OFFICE.

The Post Office is situated on the north side of Newgate Street, in a very convenient situation, being only about forty yards from the high road,—it is kept by Miss Elizabeth Barker. Letters from hence are forwarded to the north every noon, and to London, and the south at half-past one every afternoon, (saturdays excepted to the former place.) The office is open every morning at eight o'clock, and continues so until twenty minutes before twelve, it is open again a few minutes before two, and remains so until ten at night. By order of the Post Master General, a penny extra is charged upon every letter (besides the postage) delivered at the residence of the person belonging to the same.

Immediately on the arrival of the North-Mails, (at a little before two o'clock,) a Mail Cart which arrives at half-past eleven every morning, is immediately despatched to Worksop, taking letters, parcels, &c. for that place and its immediate neighbourhood.

#### THE BANK.

This respectable establishment under the firm of Messrs. Sir W. B. Cooke, Bart., Childers, Foljambe, and Parker, is situate on the south side of the Square, at which, attendance is every day given (sundays excepted) from ten o'clock till one, and from two till four, and on Saturdays from nine till five. London Bankers, Messrs. Coutts & Co. It is worthy of remark that this is the only country Bank, in England, which draws upon that eminent firm.

#### THE WORKHOUSE.

For a long series of years this parish was without a house of accommodation for the residence of the paupers belonging to it, until they were opportunely relieved by the liberal conduct of the Corporation, who, on the 29th of September, 1817, at a public meeting in the Town Hall, proposed, through the medium of the Town Clerk, to build a Workhouse, upon receiving a rent from the parish equal to £5 per cent. per annum, upon the money actually expended in erecting and completing the same, without any other consideration

for the ground rent, (which was their property,) or for the materials belonging to the old houses then occupying the situation.

The premises were erected in 1818; they are sufficiently commodious, and the house well adapted to the various purposes to which it is appropriated. Twenty six parishes are joined to this as a head, who pay an annual rent of £3, and 3s. a week each, for every pauper they may have occasion to send thither.

#### THE BRIDGE,

Which crosses the Idle and connects the parishes of East and West Retford, was partly re-built, and considerably widened, in 1794, under the superintendence of Mr. Simpson, the architect. It now consists of five arches, and although it cannot boast of any peculiar elegancies, it is sufficiently spacious and substantial to answer all the purposes for which it was erected. So insecure and dangerous had the old bridge become, that in 1793 a waggoner, from the shaking of his team, was actually precipitated into the water, owing to the giving way of the sole of the bridge.

#### THE BROAD STONE.

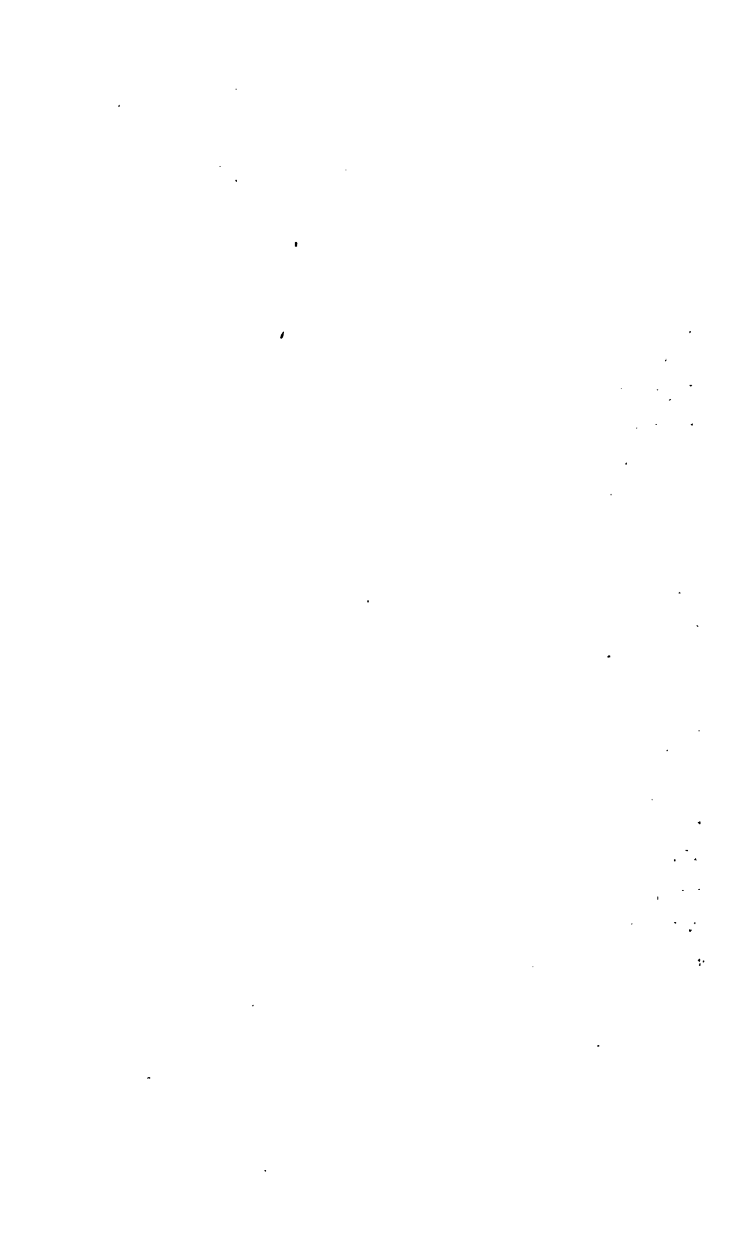
Nearly in the centre of the Square stands the Broad Stone, around which the market for the sale of corn is held. It is generally supposed (and oral tradition is the only evidence we possess respecting it,) that this Stone formerly stood on an eminence to the south-east



*Town Seal.*



*Broud Stone.*



of the town, that place being known in ancient times by the name of "*Est-croc-sic*," but now by that of "*Domine Cross*." In all probability, this stone was once the point of attraction, around which our forefathers used to assemble for the purpose of celebrating public worship ; since then, however, it has been differently appropriated, and during the time the plague raged so dreadfully in this neighbourhood, the markets were held near the spot, in order that the country people might not be deterred, through fear of taking the infection, from bringing in their different wares for the use of the public. Another stone exactly of the same form and dimensions, is to be observed in the churchyard wall at West Retford, which formerly occupied a place on an elevated piece of ground, near the road leading to Barnby Moor, in West Retford field : here too, it is probable, a market was held, under circumstances similar to those above narrated.

At what period the Broad Stone was removed from "*Domine Cross*," is unknown, but to the extent of the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, it has stood in the Market Place until the year 1818, when it was removed, by order of the bailiffs, to its present station ; it is now in an inverted position, having a square hole on the under side, similar to that at West Retford.

## CHAP. IX.

**The Great North Road—The Beaury of Retford  
—The Chesterfield Canal—The River Eble, &c.  
—The Cars and Commons.**

---

### THE GREAT NORTH ROAD.

It must be acknowledged, that Retford, standing on the line of the Great North Road, from Edinburgh to London, is considerably enlivened and benefitted by the constant succession of travellers whose business or pleasure may lead them to visit or pass through it. Formerly, however, it did not contribute much to the welfare of the town, but passed across the forest, leaving the present line at Markham Moor, and entering it again at Barnby Moor: from this circumstance may be inferred the paucity of information which we possess respecting the state of the town at different periods of its history, as it was considered out of the course of general tourists, and consequently but little noticed. One traveller, however, seems to have made Retford in his route,—I allude to drunken Barnaby,

who, in one of his peregrinations to the north, took up his quarters here, and of which he wrote in his usual rhyming style as follows,—

“Thence to Retford, fish I fed on,  
And to th’ adage, I had read on,  
With carouses I did trim me,  
That my fish might swim within me,  
As they had done being living  
And in the river nimbly diving.”

About the middle of the eighteenth century, the advantages of bringing the line of the North Road through Retford, became quite apparent to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. I find the following minute in the books belonging to the Corporation.

“Jan. 26th, 1757.—It was ordered that the Town Clerk should write to Mr. Bright, the junior bailiff,” (who was then in London,) “desiring him in the name of the bailiffs and burgesses to apply to the Members of Parliament for the Borough, to bring a Bill into Parliament to make a road or turnpike from where the old guide post stood upon Markham Common, to a bridge upon the North River in Scrooby parish, and that he should wait upon the county members, desiring their concurrence and assistance in getting the same enacted.”

For some years after this, however, the measure lay dormant, and, as is generally the case in most new undertakings, numerous obstacles presented themselves, which were not fully overcome until the year 1768,



when an Act of Parliament was obtained, the preamble of which runs as follows.—

“~~Whereas~~, the road leading from Bawtry, in the county of York, through Barnby Moor and East Retford, in the county of Nottingham, and from East Retford to the south end of East Markham Common, called the West Moor, where it joins the Great North Road, leading from London to York; and also the road from Little Drayton, to a certain bridge, called Twyford Bridge, in the said county of Nottingham, is narrow and ruinous, and cannot be sufficiently repaired, widened, and kept in repair, by the ordinary course of law: May it please, &c.

In this Act one hundred and sixty eight trustees are named, out of which two only now survive; these are A. H. Eyre, Esq. of Grove, and his brother the Rev. Archdeacon Eyre, of Babworth. The first general meeting of the trustees was held at Mr. John Booth's, the Crown Inn, at East Retford, on Friday, May 9th, 1766,

From this time a new æra commenced in the history of this town, and the vivifying rays of commerce began to shed their invigorating influence over the town and neighbourhood. The heavy carriages which were then employed in the conveyance of merchandize, and all letters intended for this part of the country, came direct to the town, and Retford began to assume an additional importance and respectability,

## THE DEANRY OF RETFORD.

According to ecclesiastical jurisdiction, Retford is in the diocese of York, and the Archdeaconry of Nottingham; of which county it forms one of the Deanries. According to Burns,\* "the institution of Deanries, bears a resemblance and relation to the methods and forms of civil government, which obtained in the early ages of the church throughout the western empire." The office was instituted in this country, at an early period of its history, which gave to the persons delegated thereto, an authority over all canons, presbyters, and vicars, until Otho, (the Pope's legate) required the Archdeacon to be present at the holding of the Chapters, who being superior to the *rural* Deans, took the presidency out of their hands, since which period, many of the Deanries have existed but in name, and the business devolved upon the Archdeacon, or his official, who transacted it at his annual visitation.

Anciently Retford formed one of these Deanries, it however, now, but nominally exists; nevertheless, the power is still vested in the hands of the Archdeacon, who holds his Visitations every year in the Parish Church, where the clergy, churchwardens, &c. of the following places (composing the Deanry) are required to attend.

---

\* Ecclesiastical Law.

| NAME OF PLACE.     | POP.<br>1821. | PATRON.                    | INCUMBENT.               | VALUE IN THE<br>KING'S BOOK. |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Austerfield        | C 242         | Same as Blyth              | Same as Blyth            | £. s. d.<br>c v 15 8 4       |
| Bawtry             | C 1027        | Ditto                      | Ditto                    | Not in charge                |
| Babworth           | R 416         | Hon. J. B. Simpson         | Archdeacon Eyre          | 14 9 2                       |
| Boughton           | C 289         | Chapter of Southwell       | Rev. S. Oliver           | Not in charge                |
| Blythe             | V 801         | Trinity College, Cambridge | ..... J. Rudd            | f 14 9 4½                    |
| Bothamsall         | C 310         | The Duke of Newcastle      | ..... J. Mason           | c v 21 6 8                   |
| Bilthorpe          | R 252         | Hon. & Rev. J. L. Savile   | ..... H. Gordon          | f 6 1 8                      |
| Carburton          | C 154         | Same as Edwinstowe         | Same as Edwinstow        | Not in charge                |
| Carlton in Lindale | R 888         | Archbishop of York         | Rev. C. W. Eyre          | 15 13 4                      |
| Clarlborough       | V 1929        | Richard Woodhouse, Esq.    | ..... J. W. Brooks       | f 9 15 4                     |
| Clayworth          | R 431         | Dean of Lincoln            | ..... T. H. Sheperd      | 26 10 10                     |
| Cottam             | C 74          | Dean of Lincoln            | ..... J. Cleaver, L.L.D. | f 7 18 1½                    |
| Edwinstow          | V 648         | Dean and Chap. of Lincoln  | Ditto                    | 14 0 0                       |
| Egmanton           | V 329         | Buke of Newcastle          | Rev. E. Smith            | 4 6 0½                       |
| East Markham       | V 758         | Duke of Newcastle          | .... S. Becher           | 11 18 11½                    |
| Elkaley            | V 347         | Ditto                      | .... G. Booth*           | f 3 16 1½                    |
| East Retford       | V 2465        | Sir Richard Sutton, Bart.  | .... T. F. Beckwith      | f 5 5 0                      |
| Everton            | V 641         | Duke of Devonshire         | .... R. Evans            | f 7 2 2                      |
| Finningley         | R 368         | — Harvey, Esq.             | .... W. Harvey           | 13 4 9                       |
| Garnston           | R 385         | The King                   | .... J. Brooke           | 11 16 6½                     |
| Gringley on the H. | V 647         | Duke of Rutland            | .... J. Holt             | f 18 4                       |
| Grove              | R 106         | A. H. Eyre, Esq.           | .... A. Youle            | 11 14 2                      |
| Hayton             | V 244         | Archbishop of York         | .... W. Tiffin           | 4 15 5                       |
| Harworth           | V 395         | Mr. Hartley                | .... W. Downes           | f 5 9 7                      |
| Headon             | V 241         | A. H. Eyre, Esq.           | .... G. H. Eyre          | f 16 12 6                    |

In the above, V. stands for Vicarage; R. Rectory; P. C. Perpetual Curacy; C. Chapelry; C. V. for clear yearly value, when certified in order to obtain the benefit of the augmentation Acts, and f. signifies when charged from the payment of first fruits.

|                  |      |   |                            |                         |               |    |     |
|------------------|------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----|-----|
| Kirton           | 206  | R | Duke of Newcastle          | ..... T. Blandford      | 7             | 14 | 9½  |
| Littleborough    | 64   | P | Geo. S. Foljambe, Esq.     | ..... J. Hewgill        | 4             | 3  | 4   |
| Mattersea        | 426  | V | Archbishop of York         | ..... W. Tiffin         | 6             | 8  | 9   |
| Misson           | 720  | V | The King                   | ..... J. Nicholson      | 6             | 4  | 4½  |
| Norton Cuckney   | 818  | V | Earl Manvers               | ..... G. Holt           | 9             | 8  | 6½  |
| North Wheatley   | 441  | V | Lord Middleton             | ..... F. Hewgill        | 3             | 18 | 11½ |
| Ollerton         | 676  | C | Same as Edwinstow          | Same as Edwinstow       | Not in charge |    |     |
| Ordsall          | 632  | R | Lord Wharfedale            | Rev F. Foxlowe          | 19            | 10 | 7½  |
| Palesthorpe      | 93   | C | Same as Edwinstow          | Same as Edwinstow       | Not in charge |    |     |
| Rossington       | 383  | R | Corporation of Doncaster   | Rev. J. Stovin, D. D.   | 11            | 1  | 6½  |
| Scundby          | 101  | R | Lord Middleton             | ..... F. Hewgill        | 14            | 8  | 6½  |
| Scrooby          | 269  | V | Same as Sutton             | Same as Sutton          | Not in charge |    |     |
| South Leverton   | 300  | V | Dean of Lincoln            | Rev. J. Cleaver, L.L.D. | 6             | 13 | 4   |
| Starton          | 605  | V | Dean and Chap. of York     | ..... T. Hurt           | 5             | 7  | 3½  |
| Sutton-cum-Lound | 717  | V | Duke of Portland           | ..... R. Affleck        | 10            | 0  | 0   |
| Tresswell        | 216  | R | Dean and Chap. of York,    | ..... E. B. Elliott     | 17            | 17 | 0   |
| Taxford          | 979  | V | Trinity College, Cambridge | J. Blandford            | 4             | 14 | 7   |
| Wellow           | 444  | R | Hon. & Rev. J. L. Saville  | Rev T. Sampson          | 11            | 0  | 0   |
| Walesby          | 308  | V | Hon. & Rev. J. L. Saville  | ..... S. Martin         | 6             | 1  | 2   |
| Warsop           | 1072 | R | H. G. Knight, Esq.         | ..... W. Mould          | 22            | 15 | 2   |
| West Burton      | 87   | G | D. Walters, Esq.           | Same as E. Markham      | 12            | 13 | 4½  |
| West Drayton     | 117  | V | Same as E. Markham         | Rev. J. K. Miller       | Not in charge |    |     |
| Walkeringham     | 618  | V | Trin. Col. Cambridge       | ..... A. Youle          | 7             | 11 | 4   |
| West Retford     | 671  | R | Corporation of E. Retford  | ..... G. Booth          | 9             | 13 | 4   |
| West Markham     | 209  | V | Duke of Newcastle          | ..... T. Stacey         | 7             | 12 | 1   |
| Worksop          | 4667 | V | Duke of Norfolk            |                         | 12            | 4  | 2   |

\* Recently Deceased.

ARCHDEACON, ... The venerable John Eyre, M. A. *Babworth*; ...  
 OFFICIAL, ... Rev. John Staunton, I. L. D. *Staunton*; ... REGISTRAR, ...  
 C. G. Bagny, Esq. *Nottingham*; ... APPARITOR, ... Mr. W. Pearson,  
*East Retford*.

## THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL.

This highly useful undertaking, which forms a prominent feature in the history of this place, was begun in the year 1771, and first opened throughout the whole line on the 12th of September, 1777. Previous to this, the northern districts of this county were greatly deficient in that mode of commercial intercourse, and the trade much clogged and impeded from the high rate of land carriage. In the year 1770, the scheme appeared so manifestly advantageous, and its result so certain, that an Act of Parliament was obtained, constituting 175 individuals, as trustees of the body corporate, under the title of "*The Company of the Proprietors of the Canal Navigation, from Chesterfield to the River Trent;*" to have perpetual succession, and a common seal. The ground space on the line specified in the Act, including the canal, towing paths, ditches, drains, fences, &c. was not allowed to "exceed twenty-six yards in breadth, except in such places where the canal shall be raised higher, or cut more than five feet deeper than the present surface."

By another clause it is enacted that no person or persons whatever, "shall cause to be erected or built any wharf or warehouse, or other building, upon or within one hundred yards of either side of the said cut or canal, in any part of a certain common called East Retford Common, between a point of the said canal, beginning ten yards west of the south-east corner of

a certain ground or garden in East Retford aforesaid, belonging to the heirs of John White, Esq. deceased, and now or late in the occupation of William Wilson, adjoining the said common, and a certain place called the Spaw, situate upon the said common."

This canal enters the county of Nottingham near Shireoaks, and after passing Worksop, Osberton, and Babworth, in a circuitous course, comes into this parish in the south-west, and just skirting the town on the south, it suddenly changes its course towards the north, and after passing through eleven or twelve parishes, falls into the Trent at Stockwith. The distance from Chesterfield to Stockwith, taking the line of the canal, is about forty-six miles, and from Norwood its regular fall is three hundred and thirty-five feet.

The quantity of land taken up in this parish by the excavations, banks, &c. was the property of those freeholders of Retford, who possess the right of pasturage upon the cars and commons, amounted in the aggregate to six acres and fourteen perches; the canal company's allowance for the same, was £47. 7s. 6d. which sum, on the 5th of November, 1778, was agreed to be expended in draining the cars and commons agreeably to Mr. Varley's plan.

From Retford to Stockwith, the canal is on a more extended scale, and the locks double the width they are from Retford to Chesterfield. Thus we find from

a memorandum in the books of the Corporation of this place, dated the 13th of September, 1775, that it was resolved by the bailiffs and aldermen, that £500 should be borrowed by the Corporation, and the same sum paid to the Chesterfield Canal Company for making the canal from East Retford common to Stockwith upon a larger plan, whereby vessels of greater burden can navigate the said canal, than otherwise would have been the case.

To enumerate the advantages which have already resulted to the town and neighbourhood from this superior method of communication, would be quite superfluous; suffice it to say, they have been generally felt by all classes; and, although the principal aim of the original projectors was the export of agricultural produce, and the importation of coals from the adjacent mines in the county of Derby, together with that of lime, timber, and other heavy articles; yet, the facility of intercourse which it ensures with our home markets, and the communication it offers with the port of Hull and consequently with every part of the globe, renders it the medium of imparting the necessaries of life, at a rate more moderate and easy than any other which has yet been devised.

The canal company have a commodious warehouse for the reception of corn and other commodities, at which, an attendance is given by Mr. William Welch, their sub-agent and warehouseman. The canal passes over the river Idle on the south-west of the town.

**THE RIVER IDLE, ETC.**

To some of my readers it may appear strange, that a subject, apparently so trifling and insignificant as the Mills of Retford, should be deemed worthy of notice; nevertheless, from their great antiquity, and the laudable purposes to which the rents and profits were originally appropriated, they demand a brief notice. Alan de Bolleshour, about the beginning of the thirteenth century, gave to his nephew, Henry Norrays, and his heirs, the moiety of the Mills of Retford, with the suits, works, fishing, and all customs; at whose decease they descended to the next heir at law,—Philip de Houlecotes, his cousin, who gave the said moiety to the abbey of Wellebek, according to the tenor of the charters of King Richard I. and King John, for the sustentation of two chaplains in the church at Wellebek, and of one in his church at Stirape, to celebrate divine service for ever, for his soul. During the greatest part of the reign of King John, this Philip was accounted a very great man, he served the office of Sheriff of Northumberland, and had writs to free him from scutages, &c. He died without male issue, leaving five sisters who divided the inheritance amongst them; and the moiety of the Mills of Retford, amongst other property, falling to the share of Alice de Stirape, she confirmed the gift which her brother Philip had thereof made; after which, Hamelin de Buggethorpe, and Margaret his wife, coming into possession of the pro-



perty, (Margaret being the second sister of the said Philip,) they also confirmed the gift to the said abbey, and all other donations which their predecessors had made.\* After the demise of all the sisters, the inheritance became the property of the crown. On the 17th of April, 1227, O. S., King Henry III. gave to the abbey of Wellebek, the Mills of Retford, to be holden of him in fee-farm, paying £10 per annum, saving to the heirs of Ralph Tessun, (a very distant branch of the same family,) if he should recover his inheritance in Watelegh (Wheatley) of 40s. per annum, which the said abbot and canons were to pay over and above the £10 per annum.

Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Kent, and Justice of England, who was lord of the manor of Wheatley, considering the love of God, and for the safety of his own soul, and of his wife's, Margaret (the daughter of the King of Scotland,) and of their heirs, gave to God, and the church of St. James at Wellebek, and the canons there serving God, and to serve God, 40s. yearly rent which he had out of the Mills of Retford, which the above named Ralph Tessun was wont to receive; and likewise granted that his men of Wheatley should do suit to the said Mills of the said abbot and convent, according as they ought and were wont.

On the 8th of May, 1265, it was adjudged in the

---

\* Register de Wellebek, page 167.

Court of Exchequer, that the men of Retford should also do suit to the Mills of the abbot and convent of Wellebek, at Retford, duly as other the king's burghesses and sokemen then did; and it was there noted that the men of Retford, who would be called burghesses, were the king's sokemen, and so called in Domesday book. Hugh Levyn, and other men of Retford, withdrew themselves from the suit, whereupon the abbot, in the year 1276, procured a writ to the sheriff to distrain upon them according to the previous judgment.\*

In the 37th Henry the Third, John Power, Robert de Morton, Oliver de Barton, and John Stirapp, were assigned to view the passage of the river Idle, through the towns of West Retford, Bolin, Tilne, Sutton, Lound, Mathersege, Scrooby, Scafteworth, Claworth, Everton, and Herewell; and to cause them to be cleansed and scoured, in regard that by their obstructions with sand, weeds, and the like, the lands and meadows of divers persons had been overflowed and drowned.

Again in 1388, Will. de Skipwith, Robert de Morton, Oliver de Barton, Elias de Thoresby, John de Beking, Will. Power, of Tylne, and John de Whetlay, were constituted commissioners to view the course of the river Idle, through the towns of Elkessay, Gamelstone, Eton, Ordeshall, Est Redforde, West Ret-

---

\* Com. term Mich. 4 Ed. 1.

ford, Bolum, Tylne, Sutton, Lound; Mathersay, Thorpe, Scrooby, Scafteworth, Claworth, Everton, Harewell, and Hayton; which, for want of cleansing, had drowned the lands of sundry persons, and to cause the same to be scoured.

This property continued in the quiet possession of the abbots of Welbeck, until the dissolution of the monasteries, when it again became the property of the crown; it was then valued at £2. 17s. 4d. per annum; shortly after, by some means, it came into the hands of the Corporation of Retford, where it now remains. On the east side of the river is a large and commodious corn mill, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Foster; a large building also adjoining, erected some years, was at first used as a manufactory for candlewick, but it is now used by Mr. Foster, as a warehouse: on the west side of the river is an extensive paper mill, in the occupation of Mr. Horatio Nelson, it was erected in 1794.

The river Idle (by whose waters the above mills are propelled,) can scarcely be said properly to assume that name, until it comes to a point a little north of Palethorpe; it is there formed by the junction of two streams, one of which rises in the forest between Kirkby and Newstead Abbey, and is called the Maun; the other named the Meden, rises in the vicinity of Hardwick, near Sutton in Ashfield. The Idle, after this, runs nearly in a northerly direction through Thoresby and Houghton Parks, to Retford, where, after passing

through the cars, it forms the boundary between the parishes of East and West Retford; its course then takes a zig-zag direction to Mattersea, thence north-west to Bawtry, where it suddenly alters its course to the east, forming for some distance the boundary between the counties of York and Nottingham, afterwards traversing the car near Misterton, it empties itself into the Trent near its junction with the Chesterfield Canal, at the north-eastern angle of the county.

Formerly the Idle was navigable from this place to Bawtry for boats and other small craft; it is now, however, what its name imports it to be—completely *idle*, as far as navigation goes, and in all probability will so remain. On the 25th of June, 1757, It was resolved at a meeting of the Corporation of Retford, that four of the aldermen should be empowered to inquire into the possibility of making the river Idle navigable from Retford to Stockwith, and to report to the body accordingly; but whether the scheme (from the expense,) was found to be impracticable, or whether the idea of a canal was suggested to them, does not appear, as no report whatever is entered on the Corporation records.

#### THE CARS AND COMMONS.

Anciently these cars and commons were the property of William de' Anne, Lord of Noraisfée, of Greenley, who held them along with other lands adjoining in that

parish, until the year 1319, when he granted "to all the men of Rettforde," their heirs and assigns, the "common pasture, with all manner their cattle in the Mikelmore of Rettforde, and in Dallcroft, and in the marsh, which is called Rettforde Karre, and in the Holmes which are between the waters," as they had been accustomed to have, so that they might be able at any time of the year to common in the aforesaid places "with all manner their cattle, and to mow with scythes, and to take away what they had mown," provided that they should not afterward "mow or common in Greenley meadows which are between the waters." He also granted to the said "men of Rettforde, their gates in all places in the circuit of the town of Rettforde, to have free ingress and egress to their gates, and with free chase and rechase with their carts and animals, in all places in the circuit of the said town." He also further granted that they should "have and hold their fair in Dallcroft as usual without impediment, so that they and their heirs, and any merchant or other person coming to the said fair should not be disturbed or distrained of their goods in the aforesaid place, during all the time of the fair;" for all of which grants, the "men of Rettforde" gave him "a certain sum of money," not specified therein.

Formerly a considerable portion of the cars and commons was of little value, being chiefly marsh; latterly, however, considerable improvements have been

made, (chiefly under the direction of the late John Kirke, Esq.) so that instead of a bog, they present a fine open space to the south and west, and as they will not be built upon, they are likely to embellish the environs of the town, and contribute in a great measure to the health and longevity of the inhabitants. The quantity of land in the whole is about 50 acres, and the right of pasturage is vested in those freeholders who have obtained "GATES," either by purchase, or by heir-ing property in the town to which they were attached. Of these gates there are 276, the value of each being estimated at about £20.

Connected with this subject, in some measure, is the common-sewer which divides the borough from the hamlet of Little Greenley, because, it proceeds from the common, which was, on the 1st April, 1282, granted by Alexander fitz Henry le Norays, as follows.—

"All that Foss which is called the Beck between my Fee of Grenelay, and the Fee of the Lord the King, and of the Burgesses of Retteford, with all its length from Est-croc-sich, unto the water of the Yddel without any retenement, have I procured to be impleaded to the said Burgesses; to have and to hold to the said Burgesses and Commonalty and their heirs, freely, quitely, &c. in right, in fee, and in inheritance, for ever, with free regress and ingress and other easements to the said Foss pertaining."

## CHAP. X.

Miscellaneous Articles—The Savings' Bank—  
Mr. Holmes's Room—Mr. John Hudson's  
Room—Biographical Sketches, &c.

---

### THE SAVINGS' BANK.

THIS laudable institution commenced on the 16th of February, 1818, under the patronage of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the Hon. J. B. Simpson, A. H. Eyre, Esq. John Kirke, Esq. the Rev. Archdeacon Eyre, and others; Treasurers, Messrs. Sir W. B. Cooke, Bart., Childers, Foljambe, and Parker; Secretary, John Mee, Esq.; and Clerk, Mr. Ald<sup>r</sup> G. Thornton; this latter situation being the only one whence any profit or pecuniary remuneration is derived.

Deposits of one shilling and upwards are received, (and bear interest as soon as they amount to twelve shillings and sixpence,) at the house of Mr. Thornton, in the Square, every monday morning from ten to twelve o'clock.

A few years after its commencement, the directors

found that the purposes for which the bank was established, were considerably abused, by persons investing money therein to a large amount, from mercenary motives, whose stations in society did not entitle them to do so: a resolution therefore was agreed upon, that no person should deposit any sum or sums exceeding £50 in the whole, in the first year; or exceeding £30 in the whole, exclusive of interest, in any subsequent year: nor should any person deposit any sum whatever which shall make the sum to which the depositor is entitled £200 in the whole, exclusive of interest.

At the last annual audit, in November, 1827, the number of depositors amounted to 833, and the amount by them deposited to £33373. 2s. 7d. making a trifling decrease during the year; yet if we take into consideration the low ebb of agricultural affairs, and consequently the general depression of trade, no cause need be apprehended of any serious decay in the interests of the institution.

#### **MR. HOLMES'S ROOM.**

I have deemed it proper to give the following description of a building, which, although private property, is not only deserving of notice, but well worthy the attention of every person whose taste may lead them to admire the works of antiquity.

John Holmes, Esq. an old inhabitant of East Retford, has erected on the premises adjoining to his house,



a Gothic building which he occasionally uses as an auxiliary library, or summer reading room. It has windows looking east, west, and south, which are enriched with painted glass. The south windows contain several portions of the scripture history of Joseph, in ancient glass, brought from the Continent to England during the time of the irruption of the French armies into many European states, several other portions whereof had been buried for safety, and were thus destroyed. The eastern lancet windows were constructed under Mr. Holmes's directions from models in the chapel at Bishop Aukland; and the great western window was executed by that ingenious artist, Mr. Miller, of Regent Street, (London,) upon plans suggested by the proprietor. The interior of the library is wholly composed of very ancient carved oak, brought from distant places, and forms a rich storehouse of interesting materials, well preserved from decay, and arranged in a method harmonizing with a building supposed to be erected in *early* times. The book-stands, tables, desks, chairs, and other furniture, exactly correspond. The room is about ten yards long, and is much visited by the curious.

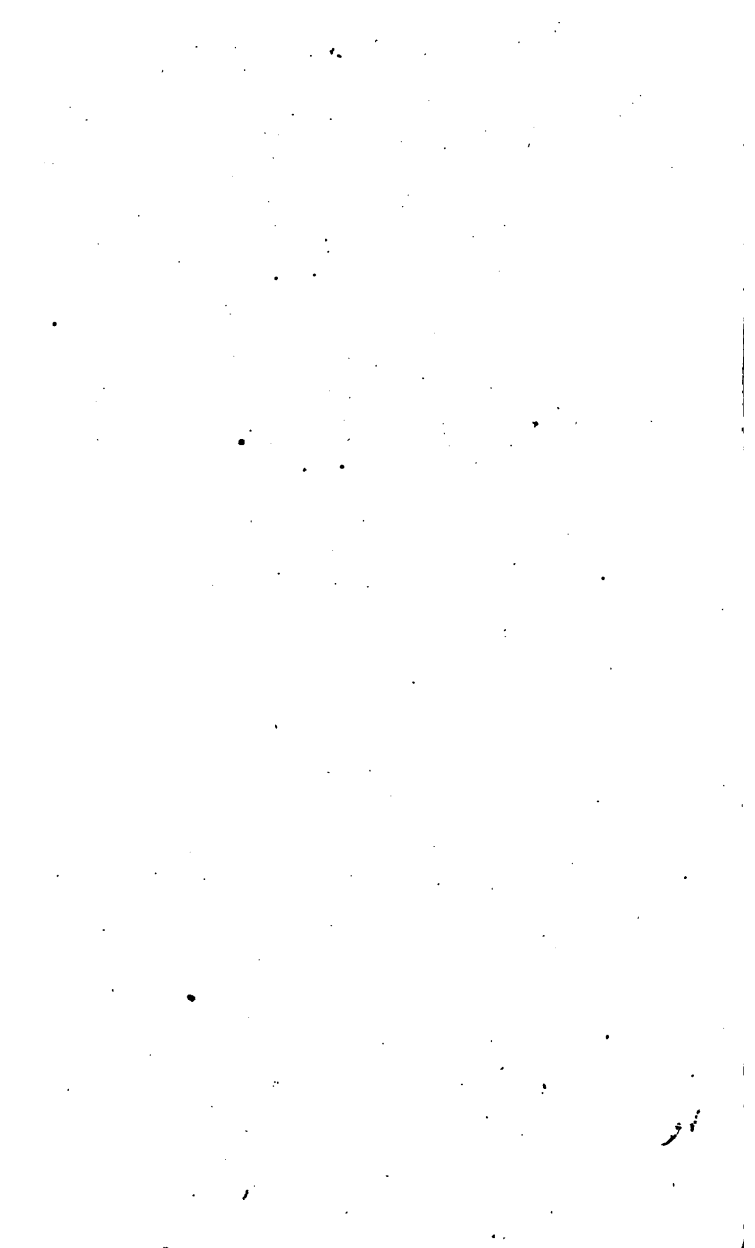
#### MR. JOHN HUDSON'S ROOM.

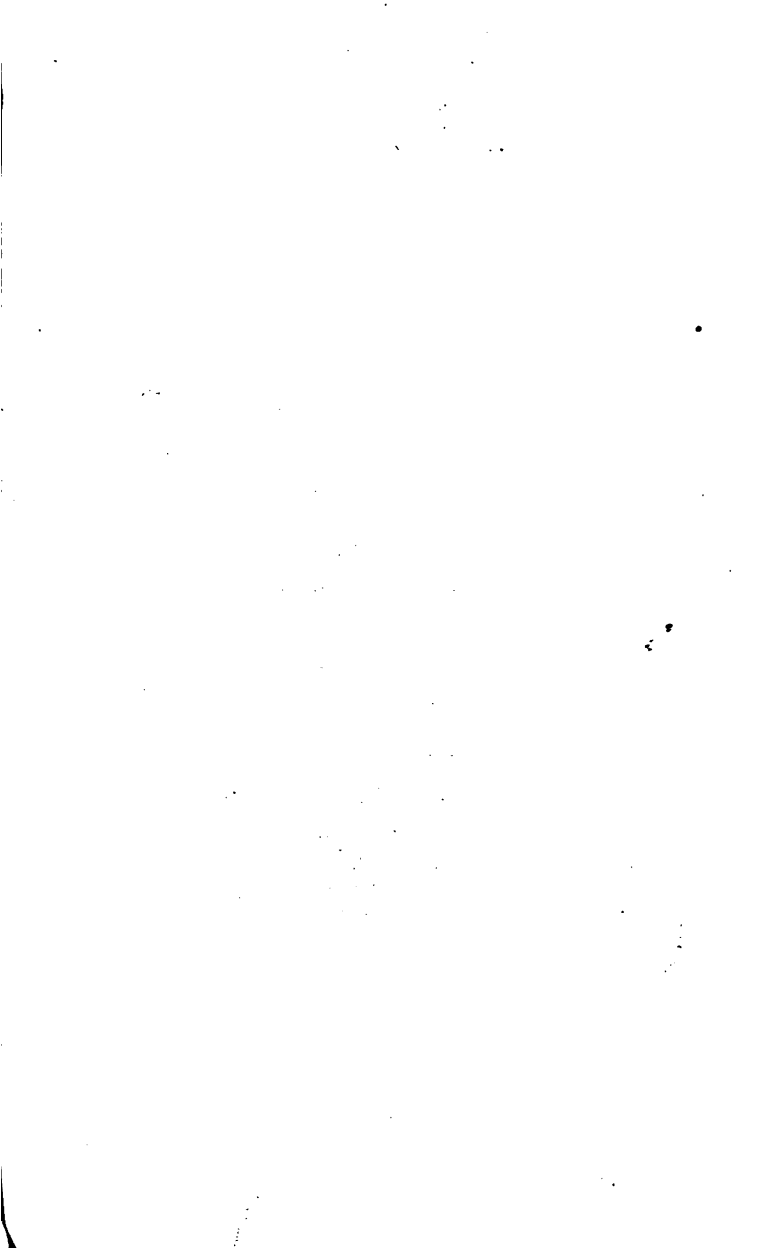
Mr. Hudson, who resides in Carhillgate, has a considerable collection of interesting curiosities, consisting of carving in wood, bone, and ivory; a variety of ancient

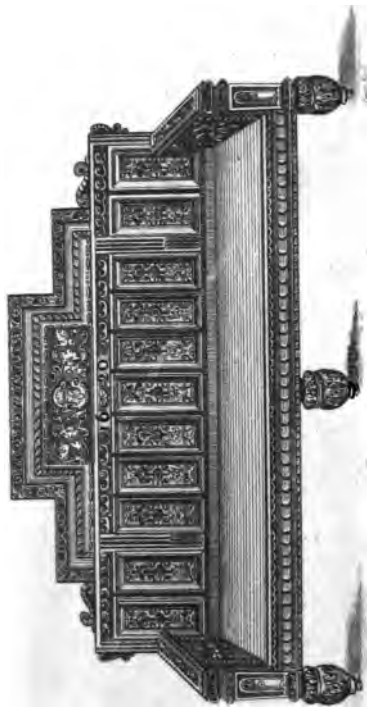


1 Ancient Pistol Sword  
 2 Ancient Iron Key  
 3 Medallion of Silver which purchased  
 1740 by one of her Majesty's per the  
 House & lying in the robes in 1871

In the collection  
 belonging to  
 Mr. John Cox.







*Ancient Oak: 1840*

rings, swords, pistols, crucifixes, Roman pavers, coins, medals, old prints, &c. &c. collected by him within the last fifteen years.

The oak sofa, (see the engraving,) is of the age of James I. it contains two drawers under the seat in front; its length seven feet, breadth twenty inches, and height of the back four feet. It was purchased at Scarbro', in 1825, and altogether forms a useful appendage to a room, whilst it displays a fine specimen of carving in days long since departed.

An ivory crucifix too, is an interesting relic of antiquity; the body is fully and most beautifully developed, particularly the toes and feet, which have been executed with the greatest nicety.

An ancient pistol-sword, of singular and curious construction. The pistol, which is rifle barrellled, is concealed by a shield in front of the sword handle, and has evidently been intended as an instrument of sure destruction.

The chest, (of which the accompanying plate is a correct representation,) is a very interesting relic, well preserved from decay; it was found some years ago in the ruins of the Abbot's Palace, formerly belonging to the Franciscan Convent, at Scarbro'. It was purchased of the individual who found it, by Mr. Carter,\* who, shortly after sold it to its present posses-

---

\* Mr. Cole, of Scarbro', the intelligent author of "*Herviana*," "*History of Ecton*," &c. &c. has given a very interesting account of this chest in a publication entitled "*The Repository*."

sor. This chest is made of hammered iron, about one-eighth of an inch thick, and bound with thin bars of the same metal, so as to divide it into compartments as represented in the drawing. The key hole on the front is false, and only placed there for ornament ; it has been richly gilt, as has also the outward border or frame, in the stile of French foliage ; all the inner compartments have been painted with various devices, chiefly landscape : the handles and bases are painted with native cinnabar ; the cover, which is represented open, is almost covered with the lock, of curious workmanship, having five strong bolts, which when the cover is put down, lock themselves, and are opened by a key in the centre of the lid, the key hole of which, is hid with a sliding bar ; the enrichment on the front of the lock is curiously chased and fitted up with white metal, not unlike silver, the inside of the chest is painted with native cinnabar or vermillion, as is also the support of the lid.

DR. WRIGHT,

An eminent dissenting minister, eldest son of the Rev. James Wright, was born at East Retford, January 3rd, 1683 ; but losing both his parents when in his infancy, the care of his education devolved upon his grandmother, and his maternal uncle. Having finished his studies under Mr. Jollie, at the academy at Attercliffe, near Sheffield, he became chaplain to several families of distinction in or near London. During the long pe-



IRON CHEST,

*Found in the Palace, Scarborough*

Published by J. Cole, Scarborough.





riod of thirty-eight years he was pastor of the church in Blackfriars, and became so much admired as a preacher, that Dr. Herring, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, frequently went to hear him, to learn from him a just elocution. During his life-time he printed thirty-seven single sermons, chiefly at the request of those who had heard them delivered. His practical works are considered to be highly important, fully answering the noble ambition which he expressed in the preface to his "Treatise on the Deceitfulness of Sin." "I had rather be the author of a small book that shall be instrumental to save a soul from sin and death, than of the finest piece of science and literature in the world that tends only to accomplish men for the present state of being." Dr. Doddridge justly observes "that his treatise on being born again, is one of the most useful, published in that age." He expired on the 3rd of April, 1746, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

MR. THOMAS GASKIN.

Although the subject of the following brief memoir was not a native of this place, it may not be inappropriate if we mention it here; his spending a considerable portion of his life within the borough will offer an excuse for so doing.

Mr. Thomas Gaskin was born at Ordsall, near this place, on the 24th of June, 1738, of poor but respectable parents, and on attaining a proper age, was bound

an apprentice to a shoemaker of Retford, who was also a burgess; consequently, on the completion of his apprenticeship, he was entitled to the privileges of a freeman, and at his decease was the oldest burgess upon the list, or what is generally denominated "the father of the Corporation."

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship, Mr. Gaskin, obtained a situation in the excise, which he filled with great credit until an accident obliged him to retire from the service, when a pension of about £30 a year was allowed him; this he retained, with some augmentations which from time to time were made, until his death. It is not, however, from this circumstance, that Mr. G. claims our notice, but from the miserly habits in which he indulged for several of the later years of his life; so penurious, that he would not allow himself the common necessities of life, but subsisted chiefly upon what he could pick up in the streets; and as to his dress,\* it consisted of a texture of rags of various qualities and colour, so tacked together, as to have defied Argus himself to have pointed out the original. His distrust of the world was as

---

\* In an electioneering squib, printed in 1802, the following lines occur respecting his dress, which he wore for upwards of twenty years afterwards.

"Had I been this fam'd poet, I'd have wrote  
'Bout Gaskin's bald old hat, or worsted coat;  
No man dare undertake to count the stitches,  
Or take the grease in nine days from his breeches."

great as his love of money, not daring to trust his savings in the hands of any person, by which he became a considerable sufferer, as in one of his annual journeys to Derby to receive his rents, his abode was broken open, and robbed of bills and cash to the amount of upwards of £500. His house was truly a miserable abode, and the little furniture, which had descended to him from his father, appeared, at the time of his death, not to have been cleaned or even removed from their situation for several years. Mr. Gas-kin lived and died a bachelor, and until two or three years before his death, resided along with his sister, who, either from example, or from principle, had become nearly as penurious as himself. On the 22nd of December, 1822, he was found dead in his own house, lying with his face on the floor of his chamber, and his extremities on the bed. A coroner's jury, which was held on the body during the following day, returned their verdict that the deceased had "died by the visitation of God."

JOHN KIRKE, ESQ.

Few towns are more fortunate in the birth of an individual of integrity, than is East Retford, in the birth of John Kirke, Esq. He was born at this place, in the year 1777, and entered early in life into his Majesty's service. Whilst his regiment lay in Ireland, he married the daughter of Sir William Richardson,

Bart. of Augher, in the county of Tyrone, and shortly afterwards retired from active service, and settled in his native town. Immediately after this, he was appointed one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for this county, the multifarious duties of which he faithfully discharged to the latest period of his existence. In addition to this office, he was elected an alderman of this borough, in the year 1816, and succeeded to the magisterial chair in the year 1817. He also became lieutenant colonel of the Yeomanry Cavalry, commanded by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and the same conduct, which invariably characterized his career in the army, alone predominated whilst entrusted with this important duty. His demise took place rather suddenly on the 23rd of February, 1826, to the great grief of his family and friends.

MR. JOHN CLIFTON.

This eccentric individual who was a native of this town, was by trade a staymaker, in which he is said to have excelled; but this business was far from being congenial to his ideas, and in the after part of his life, his sole attention was directed to the making of telescopes, electrifying machines, &c. &c. and, although being a man whose mind

"Fair science never taught to stray  
Far as the solar worlds or milky way,"

he was not deficient in scientific lore, which was greatly

assisted by strong natural abilities. He was particularly fond of fireworks, in the making of which, he greatly excelled. After his death, which took place on the 10th of July, 1816, his sister looking over his furniture and effects, found a tin canteen full of powder, for manufacturing fireworks, which she was advised to bury, instead of which, she put it into the fire; it immediately exploded, and threw part of the end of the house down, blew the windows and door completely out, and so dreadfully lacerated her arm and body, that she shortly afterwards terminated her own existence, in consequence of the severe sufferings. Mr. Clifton was greatly patronized by the neighbouring gentry, who entered into a subscription to assist him in commencing business as a mathematical and nautical instrument maker, and obtained for him a situation in the Hospital at West Retford; nevertheless, he was so intent upon his favourite studies, and neglectful of his health, that he died almost from want.

# WEST RETFORD.

---

## CHAP. XI.

**General Description, &c.—The Parish Church—  
Catalogue of the Rectors—Holy Trinity Hos-  
pital—The Free School—Baptists' Meeting  
House.**

---

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

To a stranger, the village of West Retford appears to be part of the borough of East Retford, being only divided from the latter place by the river Idle,—but this is not the fact, as they are entirely distinct, not only in municipal government, but in every other respect.

In Domesday book, this place, as well as East Retford, is joined to *Odesthorpe*, (now unknown,) and appears to have been like a number of the surrounding parishes, the property or fee of Roger de

Busli,\* and to have had soke to Clumber to the amount of one bouvat and a half (about twenty-two acres) to be taxed, which was waste or forest land. There was also soke to Weston, half a bouvat to tax. The land about sixty acres; there was also one villain, (that is, a native or bondman,) one-fourth of a mill, and four acres of meadow. Of the Tays land, Ulmer had two bovats and a half to tax in this manor. The land one caracute (about 120 acres.) There was also in this demesne, one caracute and half a mill, and ten acres of meadow, which, in the Confessor's time, was valued at 40*s.* but in the Conqueror's, only at 4*s.* About the year 1298, Thomas de Maresey, lord of Gamelston (Gamston) held here eight bovats (about 120 acres of land,) at the rate of 6*s.* per annum. Robert de Hayton also held eighty acres of land here, at the same period, part of which was of the fee of Lancaster.

---

\* This individual was a member of the great northern house of Montgomery, and with the Norman hero appears to have been a particular favourite. According to Domesday record, he was possessed, in this county alone, of one hundred and seventy-four manors, being the greatest part of ninety townships, besides very many other towns, which were partly or altogether soke to some of them. His seat in this county was at Blyth, and in Yorkshire, at Tickhill. The whole of which property, was valued in the Confessor's time, at 30*s.* but in the Conqueror's, at 10*s.* He died in 1099.



The manor of West Retford formerly belonged to the same proprietors as Grove and Weston,—the brave family of the Hercys, until the time of the last Sir John Hercy, Kt. who dying in 1570, without issue, directed his immense patrimony to be divided amongst his eight surviving sisters, one of whom, Anne, the second sister, was married to Nicholas Denman, Esq. of West Retford, on whom, and her heirs, he caused this manor to be settled, and in whose family it remained, until Barbara, daughter and co-heiress of Francis Denman, Esq. married Edward Darrel, Esq. to whom the family right descended: the issue of this marriage was three sons, Thomas, Brian, and Edward; the two former dying without issue, the whole became the property of Edward, with which, at his decease in 1665, he founded and endowed that excellent charity, the Holy Trinity Hospital. The advowson of the church was, by a fine in the year 1342, between Thomas de Everingham and Richard de Ampcotes, plaintiffs, and Hugh de Hercy, of Grove, deforcent, settled on John de Hercy, in whose family it continued till the time of the Denmans, to whom it went along with the manor, from them it descended to the Darrels, the trustees of whom, sold it to the Corporation of East Retford, on the 5th of May, 1668, in whose possession it is still retained.

Nearly the whole of the landed property in this parish belongs to the hospital, the church, and the

poor; so that the number of freeholders is limited. In 1612, the following persons were owners of property here, viz.—Edward Darrel, gent., John Podge, gent., Phillip Collye, Thomas Lincolne, Isabel Sloswicke, John Colbye, Robert Gollande, George Thompson, Thomas Merebeck, William Booth, William Thomson, Thomas Gollande, Widow Jenyver, and Richard Ellis.

It appears from the Register book, (which commences in 1538, and is in most excellent preservation,) that, that once dreadful scourge of the human race—the plague, was extremely prevalent at this place in 1568,

“———— Sublime in awful darkness, trod  
The pest; and lamentation, as he slew,  
Proclaimed his ravage in each sad abode,  
’Mid frenzied shrieks for aid—and vain appeals to God.”

Between the 22nd July and the 12th October, eighty-two persons died thereof: and again in 1664, between the 20th May and the 10th October, the same authority states, that sixty-six persons fell victims to this terrible calamity. This extensive mortality may, in some measure, be attributed to the low and swampy situation of part of the town, and from the noxious effluvia arising from the stagnant waters,—the remains of the frequent floods of the river Idle. Latterly, however, from superior drainage, and other precautionary measures, these nuisances have greatly abated: the last flood of any consequence came on, on Tuesday, the 11th of February, 1795; it was so sudden in its rise, that many of the inhabitants had not time to

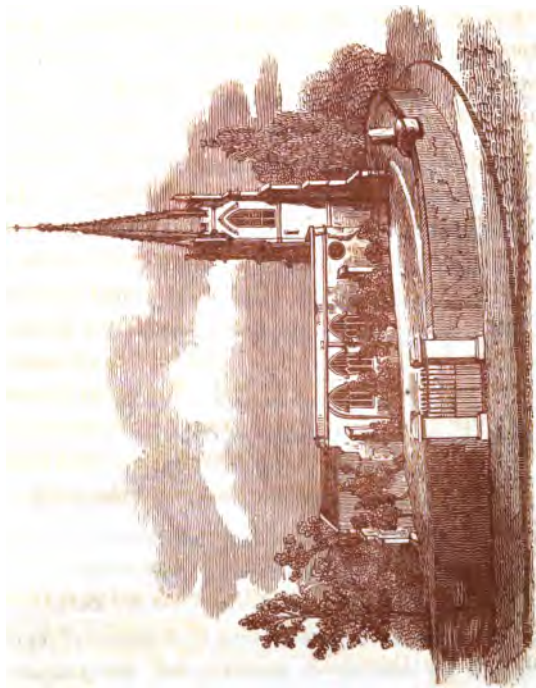
remove their goods, and consequently became considerable sufferers. A grocer's shop, and part of the house occupied by Miss Hurst, were washed down, and four others nearly destroyed. In East Retford it was upwards of three feet deep in the Market Place, and the torrent ran so violently as to tear up the pavement in different parts of the town, which was nearly all, more or less, under water.

The village of West Retford is pleasantly seated on the Great North Road, in the Hatfield division of the Hundred of Bassetlaw, and separated from East Retford by the river Idle. A dash of rural beauty pervades a considerable portion of the village, and many of the houses bear the stamp of antiquity. Nearly opposite to

"The decent church that tops the neighbouring hill"

stands the rectory-house, which, though small, is neat, and very agreeably situated: a shrubbery and garden add to its beauty, whilst the whole wears an appearance of cheerfulness and content. On the southern verge of the village is the mansion of Peter Dickonson, Esq.; when viewed from the banks of the Chesterfield Canal, it bounds a prospect of great beauty and picturesque effect, being pleasantly situated on the brow of an eminence, the declivity of which is studded with shrubs and evergreens, whilst the dark Idle sullenly flows at its base. To the right the spire of the church shoots above the towering poplars, and the wide ex-





*West-Redford Church.*

tended cars, like a lawn, forms the foreground of this very interesting picture. On the opposite side of the Worksof road to Mr. Dickonson's house, stands Darrel's hospital, of appearance beautifully picturesque; the ancient appearance of that part of the building which forms the recess, being shaded by curiously clipped yews, casts a sombre shade of retirement over the place which marks it as the court of solitude and peace.

On the north side of the road in the vicinity of the village, is the delightful residence of James Lee, Esq. (once the property of the Emerson's family,) an extensive and variegated lawn, highly ornamented with shrubs and trees, displays itself before the principal front, and though lying upon a flat, the home views are pleasing, and those towards the Gringley and Mattersey hills are of a very interesting description. The rural beauties of this place are so impressive, that they attracted the particular attention of his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, when on one of his journeys to the north:

#### THE PARISH CHURCH.

The church at West Retford, which is dedicated to St. Michael, was originally a rectory of mediety, founded fearly in the thirteenth century, and the patronage shortly after became vested in the family of the Hercys of Grove; notwithstanding which, there was an inquisition taken in 1267, about the right of patronage to the mediety of this church then vacant by the death of

Robert de Bugethame, of Weston, "from saturday next after the feast of our lady's nativity," and the competitors were Galfred de Sto Medardo, who presented Robert de Sunfield, Cl.; Henry, Rector of the Romans, who presented John de Dersel, Cl.; the Archbishop of York, who by reason of lapse collated John de Benyngworth; and Robert de Morteyn, who presented Roger de Bedyng, Cl.; when the presentation of the Archbishop of York was deemed to be conclusive. The following vacancy happened in 1276, when Prince Edward, by reason of the wardenship of the heir of Hugh de Hercy, presented Thomas Fitzsymon thereunto; afterwards the medieties were consolidated on the 13th of December, 1307.

The present edifice is small but ancient, standing upon an eminence\* nearly in the centre of the village, and consists of a nave and south side aisle; it has a handsome octagonal spire upon a square tower, with three tolerably good bells. The exterior of the build-

---

\* Butler observes that "churches dedicated to St. Michael are usually to be found on elevated spots, in allusion to this Saint's having been the highest of the heavenly host." St. Michael's mount in Cornwall, and that in Normandy, are confirmatory of this remark.

The festival of St. Michael has been celebrated with great solemnity by the christian church ever since the fifth century; the dedication of the great church of Mount Gargano, in Italy, being said to have given rise to its celebration in the west.

ing is in excellent repair, but the interior is far otherwise, especially the pewing, which is in a very neglected state, there being very few which will afford a comfortable seat. On the 20th of May, 1788, it was agreed by the Corporation of East Retford, that a faculty should be obtained for building a new loft in the south aisle, and for re-pewing the body of the church, but from some cause or other, it has not yet been carried into effect.

The tower and steeple are more ancient than the body, which is certainly not older than the sixteenth century: the monumental inscriptions in the interior are few, and not of an old date; there are some floor stones of the fifteenth century; and three within the altar rails, on one of which I find the following;—

*Hic jacet du Robert Holme quoda rtor isti ecclie  
q. obiit septimo die January anno dm millimo  
CCCCXX.*

In the centre is an ornamentally engraved cross, with a bible and chalice. On the one adjoining,—

*Barbara Barel Edwardi Barel Armigeri uxoris  
presentibus chara posteris desiderata hic in spem  
resurrectionis requiescit obiit XXXX martii A. D.  
MDCXX.*

On the border circumscribing this—

*"Obiit post funera viridis."*

The inscription on the other is illegible. At the east end of the south aisle are three others of about the



same age, but they are partly obliterated, and partly covered with pews.

*A Catalogue of the Rectors of West Retford.*

| TEMP. INST.        | RECTORES ECCLE.                                     | PATRONI.                        | VACAT.          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 16 Kal. Junii 1227 | Dms Thos. de Carlton, pbr acl.<br>medn. Eccle ..... | Malvesin.<br>de Hercy           |                 |
|                    | Dms Robt. de Bugethame, vil<br>Weston, Cl. ....     |                                 | p mort          |
| — 1269             | Dms John de Benyngworth .....                       | Æpus lap-<br>sus                |                 |
|                    | Dms Thomas Fitz Symon .....                         | King Ed-<br>ward                |                 |
| 13th Decem. 1307   | Dms Robert de Retford, Cl. ....                     |                                 |                 |
| 7 Kal. Feb. 1315   | Dms Thomas de Hercy, Cl. med<br>Eccle .....         | Dms Hugo<br>de Hercy            | Dinais.<br>sion |
| 7 Ides March 1325  | Dms Robert Norays, de Wynter-<br>ingham .....       | ijdem                           | p mort          |
| 6th May, 1368      | Dms John de Ketilthorpe, Pbr. ....                  | ijdem                           | p. Resig        |
| 15th. Feb. 1377    | Dms John Lesta de Settrington ...                   | T. Hercy,<br>de Grove           | p mort          |
| 14th. March, 1401  | Dms William Mylne, Pbr .....                        | Dms Thos.<br>Hercy              | p. Resig        |
| February, 1407     | Dms Richard Warsop, Pbr. ....                       | ijdem                           | p. Resig.       |
| 1 February, 1418   | Dms Thomas Pensar, Pbr .....                        | ijdem                           | p mort          |
| 13th Jan. 1420     | Dms Thomas de Bramley, Cl. ....                     | ijdem                           | p mort          |
| 10th March, 1421   | Dms John Frankysh, Pbr. ....                        | ijdem                           | p resig         |
| 24th Sep. 1426     | Dms John de Dyninglowe .....                        | Capit Ebor                      | p mort          |
| 7th July, 1452     | Dms Robert Holme, Pbr .....                         | Hu. Hercy<br>de Grove           | p mort          |
| 25th May, 1461     | Dms Thomas Coke, Pbr .....                          | Eliz Hercy<br>ux Hugo<br>absent | p resig         |
| 26th May, 1461     | Dms Thomas Coke, Pbr .....                          | ijdem                           | p mort          |
| 21st March, 1481   | Dms Thomas Cooke, Cl. B. A. ....                    |                                 | p mort          |
| 27th March, 1491   | Dms Robert Harpham, Pbr .....                       | Humphr'y<br>Hercy Arm           | p mort          |
| 4th Septem. 1521   | Dms Thomas Elton, Pbr. ....                         | Johnes<br>Hercy                 |                 |
|                    | Dms Nicholas Pettinger, Cl. ....                    |                                 | p mort          |
| 26th Sep. 1578     | Rev. Francis Denman, Cl. ....                       | Guilliemus<br>Denman            | p resig         |
| 21st Jan. 1595     | Rev. Zacharias Jenkinson, Cl. ....                  | Francis<br>Denman               | p resig         |
| 9th July, 1600     | Rev. Thomas Bishop, Cl. M. A. ....                  | Edrius Da-<br>rell              | p mort          |
| 14th Aug. 1642     | Rev. William Darell, Cl. ....                       | Barbara<br>Darell               | p mort          |
| — 1650             | Rev. William Ombler, M. A. ....                     | Thomas<br>Darell, Esq           | p mort          |
| — 1678             | Rev. Thomas Gylby, M. A. ....                       | Corpora.<br>of Retford          | p mort          |
| — 1760             | Rev. William Booth, M. A. ....                      | Corpora.<br>of Retford          | p mort          |
| Nov. 20th 1787     | Rev. Abraham Ybule, M. A. ....                      | Bitto                           |                 |

This living is a rectory in the gift of the Corporation of East Retford; when Mr. Hercy was patron, its value was twenty marks: in the king's books it is rated at £9. 13s. 4d. and pays for tenths, 19s.; for procurations, 6s. 8d.; for subsidies, 16s.; and for synodals, 2s. Incumbent, the Rev. Abraham Youle, M. A.

The only mural monument worthy of notice has recently been erected, and is as under.

Sacred to the memory of  
**MARY**, the beloved wife of  
the **REV. ABRAHAM YOULE, M. A.**  
who died October 8th, 1805, aged 42 years.

Also of **SUSANNAH MARIA**  
their youngest daughter, who died July 23rd,  
1814, aged 12 years.

Also their only son,  
the **REV. EDWARD YOULE, B. A.**  
Vicar of Apesthorne in this County,  
who died April 24th, 1824, aged 33 years.

**HOLY TRINITY HOSPITAL.**

The following abstract from the will of the charitable founder of this hospital, will not only explain all the circumstances relative thereto, but will render other details unnecessary.

John Darrel, M. D. of West Retford, being siezed in his demesne as of fee, of, and in, divers messuages, lands, &c. of the value of seven score pounds per annum, which descended to him from his ancestors, and having no issue of his body, by reason whereof the

name and blood of his ancestors "in the lineal 'stemm' was like to be spent and fail;" and being zealous to do some pious work or public good therewith, was desirous that the same or such part thereof as is thereafter mentioned, should be disposed of to the glory of God in a work of charity to the poor. By his Will, dated November 11th, 1664, he bequeathed all his said messuages, &c. (except such lands and tenements as he himself purchased,) unto the Hon. William Pierrepont, Esq. the Hon. George Pierrepont, Esq., Sir George Savile, Bart., Sir William Hickman, Bart., Anthony Eyre, Esq., Francis Stringer, Esq., and Francis Sandys, Esq., his executors, upon especial trust and confidence, towards the founding an hospital for the sustenance and relief of poor and impotent men, to the number of sixteen, to have continuance for ever. By his said Will, he appointed the Subdean of the Cathedral Church of the blessed Virgin Mary, in Lincoln, and his successors, master and governor thereof; and that the said hospital should be incorporated by the name of "*The Master, and Governor, and Brethren, of the holy and undivided Trinity of West Retford, in the County of Nottingham,*" with full power and authority to purchase, take, hold, receive, and enjoy, and have, to them and their successors, all goods, chattels, lands, tenements, &c. under the said name; and directing that they should have a common seal, with a cross graven therein, and in the circumference thereof "*Sigillum*

*Hospitalis Sanctæ Trinitatis de West Retford,*” whereby the said master, and governor, and brethren, and their successors for ever, should, and might, seal any manner of instrument touching the said incorporation. He also further directed that the said Subdean and his successors, upon the death of any of the brethren, should place others in the room or place of him or them so dying; preferring (if any) those of the blood and kindred of the testator, and after them those of the neighbourhood; the master and governor for his pains and for his visitation, receiving £20 per annum, and every of the brethren £10 per annum. The testator also devised the advowson of the rectory of West Retford to his executors, to be by them sold, and the money arising therefrom, to be appropriated to the liquidation of such debts as should be owing at the time of his decease. He also directed that £10 per annum should be expended in the repairs of the said hospital, if the profits of the lands would bear it; he likewise bequeathed 40s. a year out of his said lands unto the governors of the Free School at Gainsbro’, being a body aggregate in perpetual succession, for and towards the setting of the poor people of that town on work. The remaining part of the Will devises to his executors all the lands, &c. which he himself purchased, the profits of which were to be laid out for the maintenance of some ingenious scholar, whose father should not have above £30 per annum, in lands or

estate, to be chosen out of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire *by turns*, upon the election of the said master and governor, and the archdeacon of Nottingham, and their successors; the same scholar to be admitted and educated in Exeter College, Oxford; the said profits to be received by the said scholar for five years after he shall have taken the degree of Master of Arts; or until he have been settled in some benefice which shall first happen, and no longer, and then another to be chosen and maintained in like manner. Lastly, the testator bequeathed to Mr. William Midwinter, of Gainsbro', £20 for past services, with a desire that he should be the overseer of the funeral, or in his absence, Mr. John Law, of East Retford, and Mr. Humphrey Hoole, and ordered that £20 should be expended thereupon, or more if they should think it necessary.

A short time after Dr. Darrel's decease, (which took place on the 8th of March, 1665,) it was discovered that Thomas Darrel, gent. deceased, from whom part of the estate descended, had, during his life-time, made some secret or other conveyance, of part of the said lands, amounting to the annual value of forty-five pounds, situate in the Biggins in the parish of Ordsall, to the Rt. Hon. the Lady Diana Cranborne. A decree of the court of chancery, however, put the executors in possession of the estate, but chargeable with the sum of £118, as well as £40 a year, to be paid to Richard Cooke and his heirs, for ever. On the 28th of May,

1680, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, keeper of the great seal, decreed that the number of the said poor impotent men be reduced to ten, to have the same allowance of £10 per annum; and that the yearly allowance of the master and governor should be reduced to £15; but that if the revenue of the said estate should at any time hereafter increase, then that the said master's allowance, and the number of poor men, should also be increased in proportion suitable to the advance of the estate.

In consequence of the augmentation in the value of the estates, and a correspondent economy in the general expenditure, the trustees have been enabled, since the date of that decree, to increase the number of the brethren, so, as again to fulfil the will of the founder, and also to enlarge their annual allowance;\* thus enabling them to spend their declining years in comfort and comparative affluence.

The hospital is situated on the west side of the high road from Retford to Worksop, and was once the residence of the liberal donor; it is a low and ancient looking edifice in the centre, with two advanced wings in the same style; at the end of these are two advanced fronts, erected in the year 1794, in a kind of mezzo Gothic style of architecture. The centre part is generally denominated 'THE HALL,' in which prayers are

---

\* This, with other perquisites, now amounts to about £50 a year each.

read daily; the brethren are each provided with a folio edition of the book of Common Prayer, and alternately officiates as chaplain quarterly, for which he is allowed fifteen shillings. The building is two stories high; over the entrance is placed the arms of Dr. Darrel, with the crest and supporters; over the whole a small bell is suspended, which is regularly used to warn the brethren of the arrival of the appointed hour of prayer. The staircase consists of two short flights of steps, which, with the bannisters, are formed of old English oak; on entering the chamber, the whole assumes a very antiquated appearance,—the work of years which have long since passed away; here no painted nor papered walls salute the eyes of the visitor, but the whole is inlaid with empannelled oak, while over the fireplace is a simple but beautiful specimen of old English carving: in one corner hangs a number of old picture frames, which once circumscribed the portraits of the apostles and evangelists,—an appropriate decoration to the room; whilst another corner gives place to “the common chest” which contains the seal and the various documents appertaining to the estate.

#### THE FREE SCHOOL.

Mr. Richard Brownlow, of St. Andrews, Holborn, in the county of Middlesex, gent. by Will, bearing date the 20th of March, 1691, devised and bequeathed the sum of £500 to be appropriated by his executor, Mr.

Stephen Johnson, of West Retford, as follows, viz. £100 to be laid out in erecting and building a Free School for the advantage of the inhabitants of West Retford: £300 to be laid out in the purchase of lands, the profits arising from the same to be paid to the head master of the Grammar School at East Retford, providing he should teach all the boys of West Retford after they had been "instructed in the accidence" by the master of West Retford school; and if no boys should be taught at the school of East Retford from thence, then the said profits were directed to be paid to the master at West Retford, for teaching the children of all the inhabitants there, who have not an estate above the value of £10 per annum; nor goods and chattels above the value of £150 at the most. The remaining £100 to be laid out in fencing and improving the ox-pasture in Babworth Hill Field, for the benefit and advantage of the commoners.

For several reasons enumerated in the will of the said Mr. Stephen Johnson, dated 8th July, 1723, the bequests of Mr. Brownlow, could not be carried into effect, accordingly Mr. Johnson in *his* will, devised that £10 per annum should be paid out of his estate at Tilne, to the master of West Retford school, for teaching the poor children belonging to that place, and appointed the possessor of his estate, the rector of West Retford, the ministers of Ordsall, Grove, and Babworth, and their successors, trustees for the same.



By a codicil, dated June 3rd, 1725, the said Stephen Johnson devised unto Thomas Gylby, rector of West Retford; John Pigot, minister of Ordsall; Stephen Cooper, minister of Grove; Richard Wilson, minister of Babworth; and their successors, the cottage or tenement, in West Retford aforesaid, near unto the North Field Gate, then lately purchased of Mr. Edward Hall, in trust, for the schoolmaster intended to teach the children, according to the directions contained in the said will.

Since that period the school has been conducted at West Retford, and has been productive of much benefit to the inhabitants generally. The building, however, at present, is in a very delapidated condition, and the school room far too small to accommodate the increasing number of scholars. Mr. William Wragg is the present master.

#### GENERAL BAPTISTS' MEETING HOUSE.

This place of worship was originally bequeathed by Mr. Richard Brownlow, of London, for the continuance of which, he left certain property, as the following extract from his will will certify.

“Furthermore, I do bequeath my newest messuage, one acre of land, two beast gates, and the five lands ends, to Stephen Johnson and his heirs, in trust, that he, or they, shall from time to time permit such meeting to be held there as is there now, for and during so

long time as such meetings shall be allowed by the laws of this realm, and shall also during the same time, permit and suffer the preachers of such meeting, for the time being, to have, use, occupy, and enjoy, the said newest messuage, one acre of land, two beast gates, and five lands ends, and the rents, issues, and profits of the same, free from all taxes, which I would have paid and discharged by the present possessor or occupier, for the time being, out of the profits of the premises herein before given to my executor and my kinsman and their issue, male, as aforesaid, from time to time, as the said premises shall happen to come to him or them respectively,—providing always that if such meetings shall at any time hereafter be prohibited by the laws of this realm, that the said newest messuage, &c. &c. shall be in trust for such person or persons to whom, and in such manner as the premises herein before given, to my executor and kinsman and their issue, male.”

The present building was erected in 1815, and although it presents nothing of importance in its outward appearance, its interior is not devoid of taste; although plain and unostentatious, its cleanliness, and simplicity, is worthy of notice. In the centre of the aisle is the baptistry, used for administering the rite of adult baptism; and to the west of the building is the burial ground, wherein is several headstones to the memory of those who have died in that communion.

## FAMILY OF THE DENMANS.

This family appears to be the most ancient in this neighbourhood, which has preserved its name through an uninterrupted succession of ages. At what period their settlement took place is too remote for me to state, but so early as 1430, such mention is made of them in several ancient documents, as evidently indicates them to have been rich and highly respectable. I have been at considerable trouble to ascertain what families have, at different times, been united with this; for which purpose, reference has been made to the parish registers of East and West Retford, Ordsall, and Grove, but unfortunately without that success which was anticipated. It appears, however, that Nicholas Denman, Esq. of West Retford, married Anne, the second sister of Sir John Hercy, to whom the estate at West Retford descended: the issue of this marriage was one son, Francis, who resided at Old Hall, in West Retford; he afterwards married and had issue, two daughters, Anne and Barbara. Anne married Mr. afterward Sir Thomas Ailesbury, Bart. Master of Requests, in the time of James the first. They had one daughter, who was sole heiress, and subsequently married Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, and Lord High Chancellor of England, from whom descended Lady Anne Hyde, who was married to His Royal Highness James, Duke of York, afterwards

James the Second, whose daughter Queen Anne, in due course of time, swayed the British sceptre.

Barbara,\* the second daughter, married Edward Darrel, Esq.† of West Retford, by whom she had issue, Thomas, born June 13th, 1607; Brian, born 1st May, 1610; Edward, born 3rd June, 1613; and Francis, born August 7th, 1616; all of whom dying young, excepting Edward, the estate descended to him; he married and had issue, Thomas and John; at the death of Thomas, the whole of the property descended to Dr. John, with which, under his Will, was founded and endowed the hospital at this place.

About this period another branch of the family of the Denmans resided at Bevercotes, where they have ever since continued: and another branch settled in Derbyshire, from whom has descended Thomas Denman, Esq. the eminent barrister. It is, however, to be regretted, that the pedigree of the family cannot be made out so correctly as to preserve the line of descent uninterrupted. This, however, does not in the least invalidate the correctness of the foregoing statement, nor tend to disprove the facts, but is merely the result of the defective state of the registers in the sixteenth century, and of negligence in not preserving the documents pertaining to the family. The following pedigree of the Derbyshire branch is as correct as can be ascertained.

---

\* Died in 1663.

† Died in 1626.

John Denman

Thomas, a bachelor, in 1691, made a will, and bequeathed property to his nephew, Thomas, and appointed him executor.

Thomas, Anne Nicholson,\*  
made a will  
in 1734.

John..Elizabeth Buxton,  
apothecary at  
Bakewell.

Joseph  
John  
John

Joseph, M. D. at Bakewell,  
and at Buxton, died in his 83rd  
year in 1812, without lawful  
issue.

Thomas, M. D. Eliz. Brodie.  
in London, died in (now living)  
his 83rd year in  
1815.

Joseph &  
others now  
living at  
Bevercotes

+ Margaret, Sir R. Croft,  
Bart. died in  
1828.

+ Sophia..Matt. Baillie,  
M. D. died in  
1823.

+ Thomas..Theodosia  
Common Anna Verna,  
Serjeant of London,  
and Solicitor General to  
her late Majesty Queen  
Caroline.

\* William Nicholson, of Marnham, in this county, in 1702, made a will, and appointed his son-in-law Thomas Denman, sole executor.

+ All living, and have children.

# BABWORTH.

---

## CHAP. XII.

**General Description, &c.—The Parish Church,  
&c.—The Hamlet of Nanby—The Hamlet of  
Moreton.**

---

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

BEFORE the Norman invasion, the greatest part of Babworth (then pronounced Babvrde) was the property of Earl Tosti, and belonged to the king's manor of Bodmeschell, paying the tax for six and a half bovates of land. Ulmer also held here two and a half bovates, but Roger de Busli procured the whole of it from the Norman Conqueror, and delivered it by feudal tenure to Goisfrid; in Doomsday-book it is certified to be one caracufe and a half, with a bearder; pasture wood two quarrents long, and one broad, which in the Confessor's time was valued at 40s. but in the Conqueror's, only at 10s. The following is the entry referred to.

.II. bo' 7 dimid III. bo' 7 d

**S** In Baburde & Odestorp & Ordeshall | <sup>I. bou'</sup> | <sup>iht' tot' 7 7</sup> | <sup>I.</sup> bou træ &  
<sup>7</sup> dim ad gl̄d. <sup>7</sup> Tra. III. car. Wast e. pter. I. uill & II  
 bord. cū dimid car. Ibi. X. <sup>u u</sup> ac pti.

**M** In Baborde. h̄b Vlmar. II. bou <sup>7 7</sup> træ & dim ad gl̄d.  
<sup>7</sup> Tra. II. cār. Ibi Goisfrid h̄o Rog <sup>9</sup> ht. I. cār & I  
 bord cū dim <sup>7</sup> cār. Silua <sup>7</sup> past. II. qz <sup>u</sup> lg. & I. lat.  
 T. R. E. ual. XI. sol. m. X sol.

For what period Goisfrid held it we are not informed, but in 1316, (according to Nomina Villarum,) the Earl of Lancaster, and Robert de Saundeby, are certified to have been the lords of it, and possessed the greatest part of the parish; but the portion of the Saundbys had been in their family for several years previous: some time after the old feoffment belonging to the Earl of Lancaster was purchased by Sir William de Grenden, who also held other property, about thirty-five acres of land, &c. in this parish, of Robert de St. George, of Bothamsall, and for which he paid the sum of 3*s.* 4*d.* annually. In 1355, nearly the whole of Babworth became the property of Sir Thomas de Grenden, who sold it in 1358 to Sir William Trusbutt, at whose death it descended to Sir Robert, his son, but, who within two years of coming into possession, sold the manor with its appurtenances unto Sir Richard de Willoughby, of Wollaton; afterwards it became the property of

the Earl of Shrewsbury and Lord Cavendish, and in the 18th century it was purchased by Sir Gervas Elwes, and lastly by John Simpson, Esq. in whose descendants the estate is vested.

The parish, which contains the hamlets of Great, and Little Morton, Morton Grange, and Ranby, contains nearly 6000 acres, of excellent forest land, mostly inclosed. The whole of the land in Babworth is the property of the Hon. J. B. Simpson, which he has in his own occupation, and upon which he has erected a steward's house, and farming buildings, upon a large scale.

Babworth Hall, the seat of the Hon. John Bridgeman Simpson, (brother to the late Earl of Bradford,) is pleasantly situated on an eminence, a short distance from the Retford and Worksop road, about a mile and a quarter from the former place. Its vicinity contains some of the finest scenery in this part of the county, for which, it is, in a great measure, indebted to its present possessor, who, has lately increased the beauty and interest of the place by a fine piece of water, a swiss cottage, &c.

Near the church, is the charming little sequestered residence of the Rev. Archdeacon Eyre, the rector, in which, comfort and elegance are blended; and to whose worthy possessor, added to the kind patronage of the Simpson's family, the parish is much indebted for its internal prosperity.



## THE PARISH CHURCH, ETC.

In 1295, the advowson of this church was the property of Robert de Swillington, who had free warren in Babworth, and at his death, in 1355, it descended to Sir Thomas de Grendon, who, shortly afterwards sold it to Sir William Trussbutt, and his heirs, but who, within three years after taking possession, presented it to the priory of Newstead, having first obtained the king's license, and the license of Sir Thomas de Saundby, chief and mesne lord thereof, to do so. From this period until 1531, it remained in the possession of the said priory, when John Blake, the then prior, on the 4th of October in that year, for the sum of fifteen pounds, granted it, and one acre of land, to John Hercy, Esq. of Grove, and to his heirs; nevertheless, it appears that he only made one presentation, when it passed into other hands, and in 1674 became the property of the Wortleys, from whom it was purchased by John Simpson, Esq. in whose descendants the patronage is continued.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is a small but handsome structure of stone, advantageously situated on a rising ground. It consists of a tower steeple, with three bells, and clock, a nave and chancel uniform in their windows, height, and battlements, with a side aisle and vestry, and a handsome porch. The whole is of the later period of the Gothic

architecture. The little burial plot which surrounds it, is considerably elevated, being "connected with, or rather enclosed within the elegant pleasure grounds of the adjacent buildings; while the fine trees, aged and bowery, enhance materially the charming effect of the ivy-mantled tower."

The monumental inscriptions here retained, are not of an ancient date, but the following are deserving of record. In the front of the eastern window, which is of purple glass, divided into five compartments, is a very elegant monument from a design by Repton, having the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of HENRIETTA FRANCES, the beloved wife of John Bridgeman Simpson, Esq. whose grief for her early loss, can only be alleviated by the consciousness that for virtue like hers, the gates of the grave shall open unto life eternal! She died July 25th, 1791, aged 32.

On another, near the above, surmounted by an urn, and backed with a pyramid of mottled marble, is as follows.

Within the family vault of this church, are deposited the remains of the REV. JOHN SIMPSON, late of Stoke Hall, in the county of Derby, who died the 5th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1784, aged 85. Religion the most pure, learning the most profound, were his characteristics; every moral and social virtue he possessed and exercised in an eminent and amiable degree: he was honoured and beloved by all who knew him, and his death was universally lamented. Lady Bridgeman, his only surviving child, erects this monument in grateful remembrance of him. And also to the memory of her dear mother, who departed this life, in the year 1785, aged 75. She was the daughter of Thomas Stringer, Esq. of Deptford, in the county of Kent, and granddaughter of Admiral Benbow, of immortal memory.

Another beautiful mural tablet has the following,—

To the memory of JOHN SIMPSON, Esq. (son of William Simpson, Esq. late of this place,) who died February 5th, 1727, and in the 57th year of his age; this monument was erected by Elizabeth, his *relict*, daughter of Francis Stringer, Esq. late of Sutton upon Lound, in this county. They had issue, six sons, William, Francis, John, Gervase, Thomas, and Lindley, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Jane, and Eleanor: of the sons, two lye buried near this place, Francis and Thomas; and of the daughters, one, Eleanor, the rest still survive. Underneath... ELIZABETH SIMPSON, *relict* of John Simpson, died the 6th February, 1746, aged 76, and was buried near the remains of her beloved husband, in the chancel of this church.

Another monument, surmounted with an urn, bearing the motto "*Duo Juncta in Una*," has the following inscription,

In this vault is interred CATHARINE SIMPSON, daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Henry Brydges, *D.D.* brother to James, first Duke of Chandos; she died justly lamented, 1st May, 1771. In testimony of his high and sincere regard for her most amiable disposition and good heart, this monument was erected by her disconsolate widower, Lindley Simpson. Also in the same vault lie the remains of LINDLEY SIMPSON, of Babworth, Esq. who departed this life justly regretted, the 8th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1785.

Another monument of white marble, in the form of a cone, surmounted by the arms, bears the following.

To the memory of WILLIAM SIMPSON, late of Stainforth, in the county of York, Esq. and FRANCES, his wife, daughter to John Elwick, Esq. formerly of the same place, and Widow of John Eyre, late of Bramley, in the county of York, Esq. This monument was erected by his own appointment. He departed this life at Stainforth, the 16th of January, 1768, aged 71. She died the 2nd of April, 1762, aged 63. They lived much regarded, and died much lamented. They had four children, who died in their infancy. He married for his second wife, Elizabeth Warrington, daughter of George Warrington, of Wrexham, in Derbyshire, Esq. by whom he had no issue. She survived him.

On another,

This monument was erected in 1759, in memory of the HON. ANNA MARIA VANE, by her affectionate husband. Near this monument are deposited the remains of MORGAN VANE, Esq. of Bilby, in this county, son of the Hon. Morgan Vane, obiit Nov. 11th, An. Dom. 1789, ætatis sue 51.

A small sarcophagus in the body of church, records the following,

Sacred to the memory of JOHN ROGERS, late of Ranby, in this parish, gent. whose remains lie interred near this place, he died the 2nd day of March, 1798, in the 58th year of his age, universally beloved and lamented.

A benefactional table informs us, that Lindley Simpson, Esq. left to the rector of Babworth, one canal share, to be applied in teaching the poor children of that place to read, and in the purchase of Old and New Testaments, and other good books.

*A Catalogue of the Rectors of Babworth.*

| TEMP. INST.       | RECTORES ECCLE.                       | PATRONI.                    | VACAT.  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 14 Kal. Mar. 1295 | Dms William de Grendon, Sub           | Rob. de Swillington         |         |
|                   | Dms Thos. Pepyn, Pbr .....            |                             | Resig   |
| 17th May, 1350    | Dms Will. de Borough, Cap ..          | Hercy de Grendon            | Resig   |
| 11th Oct. 1355    | Dms Will. Dobyngs de Burgh Cl. ....   | Sir W. Trussbutt            |         |
| 2nd Decem. 1356   | The same .....                        | Prior & Convent of Newstead | Resig   |
| 14th July, 1410   | Dms Will. de Berneston .....          | ijdem                       | Resig   |
| 24th April, 1411  | Dms Will. de Burton .....             | ijdem                       | Resig   |
| 12th July, 1415   | Dms Will. de Tenelby de Grove         | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 30th Nov. 1417    | Dms Will. Tuxford, Pbr .....          | ijdem                       | Resig   |
| 15th Sep. 1419    | Dms John Large, de Keworth, Pbr ..... | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 24th May, 1464    | Dms Thos. Marjore, Pbr .....          | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 4th Feb. 1487     | Dms John Cotom .....                  | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 14th Feb. 1494    | Dms Thos. Gunthorpe .....             | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 7th July, 1536    | Dms Will. Higden, B. A. ....          | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 19th Aug. 1557    | Dms Nich. Pettynger, Cl. ....         | Sir John Hercy              |         |
|                   | Dms Robt. Lelly, Cl. ....             |                             | Mort    |
| 11th July, 1586   | Dms Richd. Clyfton, Cl. ....          | Assig. of John Sydenham     |         |
|                   | Dms Richd. Chester, Cl. ....          |                             | Privat. |
| 6th June, 1605    | Dms George Turvin, Cl. M. A.          |                             | Mort    |
| 14th Oct. 1617    | Dms Thos. Bishop, Cl. M. A. .         | Martyn Taylor               |         |
|                   | Rev. Thos. Denny, Cl. ....            |                             | Mort    |
| 17th Aug. 1675    | Rev. Charles Wilton, Cl. M. A.        | Anna Worsley                |         |
| 9th April, 1700   | Rev. Richd. Wilson .....              |                             | Mort    |
| 1727              | Rev. Wm. Justice .....                | J. Simpson, Esq             | Mort    |
| 1743              | Rev. Thos. Heald * .....              | W Simpson Esq               | Mort    |
| 1760              | Rev. Thos. Mellor .....               | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 1769              | Rev. — Wood .....                     | John Simpson, Clerk         | Mort    |
| 1786              | Rev. John Eyre, M. A. ....            | J. Simpson, Esq             | Vacat.  |
| 1790              | Rev. Guy Fairfax .....                | ijdem                       | Mort    |
| 1794              | Rev. John Eyre, M. A. ....            | ijdem                       |         |

This church is a rectory, and the patronage is vested in the Hon. J. B. Simpson. Incumbent, Rev. Archdeacon Eyre. It is valued in the king's books at £14. 19s. 2d. and pays for tenths, £1. 9s. 11d. and for synodals, 7s. 6d.

\* In June 1759, this gentleman was unfortunately drowned whilst bathing in St. John's well, in the parish of Clabro'.

## THE HAMLET OF RANBY.

The land in this hamlet, in the Conqueror's time, was mostly waste, part of which belonged to the king's manor of Bodmeschell (Bothamsall). *Ranesby* and *Sudershall*, answered the tax for five bovats. The land was one caracute and a half, which was waste. There was also soke to Grove, belonging to the fee of Roger de Busli, amounting to half a bovat. Soke also in Eton, one bovat to be taxed. Ranby originally went along with Bilby, with which part of it is parished to Blythe, and part of Ranby to Babworth.

Here, is the seat of the Duchess Dowager of Newcastle, lately purchased from H. Blaydes, Esq. who erected the front of the present mansion. The situation of the house is pleasant and agreeably romantic, and her Grace, who has resided here for some years, has made considerable improvements in the walks, pleasure grounds, &c. which has greatly enhanced the value of the property, and shed a degree of beauty around the place, not otherwise particularly prepossessing to the eye of an occasional visitor.

John Rogers, Esq. has also a good house and extensive farm in this hamlet. The high state of cultivation in which the land is kept, is highly creditable to Mr. Rogers, as a practical agriculturalist.

Formerly Ranby was considerably larger than it is at present: until about the middle of the eighteenth century, several ancient oak trees, commonly called "Ranby Oaks," stood in the parish, which were probably the only ones remaining in this part, of the famous oaks of Sherwood Forest. Now, however, the whole is in a high state of cultivation, or covered with thriving plantations of oak, larch, and other useful timber trees.

#### THE HAMLET OF MORETON.

In Domesday-book, this hamlet is called Northern Morton, which, before the conquest, was held by two Saxons, Alfrid and Lufchell, paying to the tax for two bovats. In the Confessor's time it was valued at 16*s*. After the conquest, these two manors became the fee of Roger de Busli. Early in the thirteenth century, it was the property of the Vavasors, and after numerous changes, it now belongs to William Mason, Esq. and the Messrs. Kippax'. Southern Moreton is the property of the Duke of Newcastle, and of the Hon. and Rev. John Lumley Savile.

# ORDSALL.

---

## CHAP. XIII.

General Description, &c.—The Parish Church,  
&c.—Catalogue of Rectors—The Hamlet of  
Thrumpton—Whitehouses.

---

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

THE first mention which I have found of this place, is in the reign of Edward the Confessor, about the year 1037, when it contained four manors, held by Oswald, Turstaun, Oderic, and Thurstan, and they paid to the geld or public tax for four bovats (60 acres) of land.

The following is the entry in Domesday book respecting Ordsall.

In ORDESHALE . I. boū. ad <sup>---</sup>gld. Tra. IIII. bob. Ernui ten.  
K Vasta. ē.

ſ In Ordeshale . I. bou tre a <sup>---</sup>gld. Tra. I. cār. Ibi. II  
soch hnt. I. cār. & III. <sup>u</sup>acs <sup>u</sup>pti. & III. <sup>u</sup>acs silæ.

**¶** In ORDESHALE h̄br<sup>9</sup> Osuuard<sup>9</sup> Turstin<sup>9</sup> Ordric &  
 Turstin<sup>9</sup>. IIII. boū<sup>7</sup> tre ad gld<sup>7</sup>. Tra IIII. cār. Ibi II  
 hoēs Rogerii h̄nt. III. cār. & v. uill & II. bord<sup>7</sup>  
 h̄ntes. II. cār. Ibi XVI. ac<sup>u</sup> pti<sup>u</sup>. Silua<sup>7</sup> past. I. qz<sup>u</sup> lg<sup>u</sup>.  
 & dim<sup>u</sup> lāt T. R. E. ual. XXVIII. sol<sup>a</sup>. m. XXIII.  
 sol.

After the conquest, it became the property of Roger de Busli, and was acknowledged to have soke to the king's manor of Dunham, of one bovat to be taxed. The land one caracute. There was also soke to Grove, of one bovat and a half to be taxed. The land one caracute. Of the Tayn land, held by Erwin, there was one bovat to be taxed, which was for four oxen. According to the above survey, the land here was chiefly waste, but afterwards, the tenants of Roger, had three caracutes (360 acres) of land, and five villains;—and two borders having two caracutes. There was also sixteen acres of meadow land; and pasture and wood land one mile long, and half a mile broad, which, in Edward the Confessor's time, was valued at 28s. but in the Conqueror's time, only at 24s.

Early in the thirteenth century, the greatest portion of Ordsall became the property of the Hercys of Grove, part of which had previously been held by Mauvesinus de Hercy, of Robert de St. George, of Bodmeschell (Bothamsall,) to the amount of 30 acres, for which he



paid the sum of 5*s.* 4*d.* annually. After the disposition of Sir John Hercy's property, this part of the estate came to Francis Mackworth, Esq. who had married Ellen, his seventh sister, whose son on coming to the property, disposed of it to — Bevercotes, Esq. a barrister at law, in York, at whose decease it descended to Thomas Cornwallis, Esq. who had married his daughter; Mr. Cornwallis shortly after sold it to the Countess of Devonshire, who settled it upon Sir Edward Wortley, her eldest son; it is now, for the most part, the property of the Hon. J. B. Simpson, and of the Messrs. Kippax'.

In the year 1290, Robert de Bakere, of Retford, brought an action against Hugh de Hercy, Esq. of Grove, because he had prevented him from fishing in the Iddell of Ordsall; when the jury found that "all who hold lands abutting on that water, have a right to fish in it at their pleasure unto the threed of the water." Verdict for the plaintiff.

The village of Ordsall is situate in the Hatfield division, of the hundred of Bassetlaw, about a mile to the south-west of Retford, and half a mile from the line of the North Road. The north-west approach to it may boast a considerable share of rural beauty; on this side, the church may be seen, slightly shaded by the trees and shrubs, from which, at a distance, it appears to rise. The village itself, however, cannot be called pleasant, the houses being generally old

and extremely irregular, and the road through it hollow, and in some places dangerous; but the parish, which comprehends the hamlets of Thrumpton and Whitehouses, has been very considerably improved by the erection of several respectable houses,—the gardens too, being pleasantly situated and tastefully laid out, give a very pleasing appearance to the neighbourhood.

The rectory house is very spacious, and from its choice situation, is calculated to afford a comfortable residence for those appointed to minister to the spiritual wants of the parishioners. Amongst others, may be mentioned the mansion of John Kippax, Esq. at the Elms, to the west of the North Road; this is pleasantly situated, and although the views cannot boast of being extensive, yet they are far from being devoid of interest. Nearer the precincts of the town of Retford, on a slight declivity, stands a neat house, built by the late Mr. Alderman Ginnever; the ground in front is tastefully decorated with shrubs and evergreens. The next deserving of notice, is the house recently erected by George Kippax, Esq. its bold and commanding situation renders it a very prominent object, and the picturesque scenery which displays itself in every direction, may be said to make it a very desirable residence. The hamlet of THURMPTON has undergone several improvements within the last few years, and to a person unacquainted with its limits, it would be supposed to form part of East Retford. Mr. Roberts possesses

a snug and comfortable cottage here, which has a cheerful, light, and airy appearance, but the lowness of the site on which it is erected, prevents its appearing to advantage. WHITEHOUSES, which takes its name from two very ancient white cottages which time is rapidly devouring, is situate on the North Road, one mile south of Retford, and contains besides an inn, two or three tolerably good houses.

#### THE PARISH CHURCH.

This edifice, in its exterior appearance, is neat and somewhat antiquated; the tower is considerably more modern than the body, but there are no records to my knowledge, at present in existence, to show the positive date of either. It is quite certain, however, that it was founded about the middle of the thirteenth century. At that period, the principal part of Ordsall was the property of the Mercys, of Grove, to whom the advowson of this church belonged; in this family the patronage continued until the death of Sir John Mercy in 1570, when his immense property was divided amongst his eight surviving sisters, the Ordsall estate was given to Francis Mackworth, Esq. of Empingham, in Rutlandshire, who had married Ellen, the seventh sister, but the advowson became the property of George Neville, Esq., who, at the same time came to the estate at Grove, by marrying Barbara, the fifth sister; afterwards the living came to Thomas Cornwallis, Esq.,

who sold it to Lady Wortley, who finally settled it along with the ancient estate, on her eldest son; it was disposed of some years afterwards, but the patronage of the living is still vested in the descendants of that family.

The interior of the church is in a very poor state of repair, more especially the pewing. It is greatly to be regretted that this should be the case, as the village is improving, and the living of a superior kind.

The tower, which is lofty and pinnacled, contains three bells, and previous to the year 1823, was in an excellent state of repair, at that time, however, it was struck by lightning, and towards the top sustained considerable damage; the south-east pinnacle was completely shattered to pieces; since then the damage has been repaired.

In the ecclesiastical history of this place, two very remarkable instances of persecution occur, which are particularly deserving of notice;—the first is the case of the Rev. William Denman, who, in the popish times of Queen Mary, appears to have sacrificed this living to his strong attachment to the protestant cause; afterwards, in the more tolerant reign of her successor, Queen Elizabeth, he was fully restored to his benefice, and died at a good old age, bequeathing to posterity an example of firmness and perseverance in the religion which he had embraced, well worthy of imitation. The other is the case of the Rev. Marmaduke Moore, also

rector of this parish, whose paternal estate, on the 18th of November, 1652, was forfeited "for treason," and himself sequestered from his living, "for the heinous and *damnable* offence of playing at cards, *three several times, with his own wife!!!*" a genuine specimen this of the *principles(?)* which actuated the Rump Parliament, during the fanatical and puritanical times of the commonwealth!

The monuments and monumental inscriptions are not numerous, nor, with one or two exceptions, are they particularly interesting. In the north aisle is an ancient mural monument, uncommonly *beautified* with whitewash; the upper part, which projects, is supported by pillars; in the centre of the tablet is the figure of a man kneeling, having a desk and book open before him; round his neck the broad ruff, much worn in the time of Queen Elizabeth; there is no inscription whatever to show for whom it was erected. Within the altar rails, on a brass plate, is the following.

Hic jacet D<sup>ns</sup> stephanus Coe in Artibus Magister quondam Rector Istivus Ecclesie qvi ammam deo reddidit sexto Aprilis anno dm. 1614.

On the same floor stone, and nearly in the centre,

Here lyeth inter'd the body of the truly just and vertuous Robert Coe, of Ordsall, gent. who departed this life for a better, March the 23rd, in the year of our blessed Lord 1718, and in the 74th year of his age.

On another to the north is as follows,

"Quatis vitæ fups Ita," this is to the memory of the wife of the above.

Another on the north side of the chancel.

Johannes Pigot, A. M. Ecclesie Cathedralis et Metropolitanæ Cantariæ a sex Concionatoribus Ecclesiae Southwell Canonicus et hujus Ecclesiae Rector obiit Aug. 21, A. D. 1727, annus natus. Elizabethæ uxoris ejus cineres juxta sunt depositæ obiit Jan. 4th, A. D. 1738, 60 annus natæ.

On a plate in the south aisle,

Here lyeth the body of JOHN JOHNSON, who died October 10th, 1680, and was buried November 1st, in the 43rd year of his age; he was the son of Stephen Johnson, of Ordsall, and Anne his wife, and married Catharine, the daughter of Wm. Browalow, of Ossington, by whom he had issue one son, Stephen, deceased, and one daughter Elizabeth surviving, aged 11 years. The memory of the just is blessed.

The following inscription to the memory of the Rev. William Denman, before mentioned, was formerly in the church, but I do not find it there at present.

*Filius Armigeri mihi mater militis heres,  
Nominem sum Denman, arte magister eram.  
Pastorem Ordsallie Mariæ regnante remotum  
Restituit princeps Elizabetha gregi.  
Continuo & feci caperet Retfordia fructus  
Progredier ei qui Religione student.  
Pauperibus struxisse domos Ordsallia novit,  
Mole sub hac tandem mortuus ecce cubo.  
Mortuus ! ah fallor, vitam traduco beatus,  
Terra cadaver habet, spiritus astra colit.*

The most recent monuments are belonging to the family of the Masons, on one of which, is as follows.

Sacred to the memory of ANNE MASON, of Eaton, in this county, who was born the 10th March, 1743, and died the 8th, January, 1795; and Catharine Mason, of Eaton, in this county, who was born the 6th, October, 1745, and died the 15th May, 1807; and George Mason, Esq. of Eaton, in this county, who was born the 18th, July, 1741, and died the 20th, June, 1809.

On another opposite to the above,

Sacred to the memory of WM. MASON, Esq. of Welham, who was born the 29th, January, 1747, and died 21st, September, 1803. JANE, relict of William Mason, Esq. of Welham, born 28th, March, 1751, and died 12th, February, 1823.

In the south aisle is a table of benefactions, and a monument to the memory of Richard Brownlow, of Thrumpton; also of Mrs. Anne Turnell, his daughter.

The font is plain, and cannot boast of much antiquity.

The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Right Hon. Lord Wharnccliffe; it was valued at £24 when Mr. Hercy was patron, 'tis now valued in the king's books

£19. 10s. 7½d. and pays for tenths, £1. 19s. 0½d.; for synodals, 4s.; for first fruits, 7s. 6d.; and for procurations, 6s. 8d. Rector,—the Rev. F. Foxlowe.

*A Catalogue of the Rectors of Ordsall.*

| TEMP. INST.        | RECTORES ECCLIE.                      | PATRONI.               | VACAT. |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| 6th Ides Feb. —    | Dms Thos. de Burton, Sub. ....        | Dms Hugo de Hercy      |        |
| 11 Kal. Mar. 1313  | Dms Aiardus de Longo Prato, Pbr. .... | ijdem                  |        |
| 4th Ides Nov. 1322 | Dms Laurence de Hercy, Cl. ....       | ijdem                  | Resig  |
| 10th May, 1364     | Dms Thos. de Ordsall, Pbr. ....       |                        | Resig  |
|                    | Dms John de Sandalle. ....            |                        | Resig  |
| 23rd Decem. 1379   | Dms John de Burton, Pbr. ....         |                        |        |
| 20th June, 1410    | Dms Will. Burgh. ....                 | Sir T. Hercy, kt.      | Mort   |
| 4th June, 1415     | Dms Robt. Cave, Pbr. ....             |                        | Mort   |
| 20th June, 1416    | Dms Reginaldus de Tylne, Pbr. ....    | ijdem                  | Mort   |
| 22nd June, 1417    | Dms John Marton, Pbr. ....            | ijdem                  | Resig  |
| 26th Nov. 1418     | Dms Robt. Conynne, Pbr. ....          | ijdem                  | Resig  |
| 26th July, 1484    | Dms Adam Southe, Pbr. ....            | ijdem                  |        |
|                    | Dms Robt. Smith, Pbr. ....            |                        | Resig  |
| 5th Dec. 1441      | Dms John Hardfish, Cap. ....          | Hugo Hercy             | Resig  |
|                    | Dms Robt. Baynbug Donnington. ....    | ijdem                  | Mort   |
| 25th Sep. 1483     | Dms Rad. Stanhope. ....               | Humph. Hercy, Esq.     | Resig  |
| 12th April, 1486   | Dms Will. Rose, Pbr. ....             | ijdem                  | Mort   |
| 9th July, 1487     | Dms Greg. Warych, Cap. ....           | Feof. Hugo Hercy, Esq. | Mort   |
| 20th Aug. 1506     | Dms John Helwys, Pbr. ....            | Humph. Hercy, Esq.     | Mort   |
| 31st Jan. 1512     | Dms Robt. Neville, M.A. ....          | ijdem                  | Mort   |
| 2nd June, 1550     | Dms Will. Denman, Cl. ....            | Dms Jn. Hercy          | Depro  |
| 16th Jan. 1556     | Dms Robt. Blundesby. ....             | ijdem                  | Vacat. |
|                    | Dms Wm. Denman, Cl. ....              |                        | Mort   |
| 4th April, 1568    | Dms Francis Nevyle, Cl. ....          | King James, by lapse   | Resig  |
| 29th Sep. 1614     | Rev. Ed. Mason, Cl. M. A. ....        | Ditto                  | Resig  |
| 3rd March, 1631    | Rev. Marm. Moore, Cl. ....            | Lyon Falconer          |        |
|                    | Rev. Will. Haughton, Cl. ....         |                        | Mort   |
| 22nd Oct. 1673     | Rev. Ed. Raynes, Cl. M. A. ....       | Anna Worsley           |        |
| ..... 1693         | Rev. John Pigott, Cl. M. A. ....      | Sidney Wortley, Esq.   | Mort   |
|                    |                                       | John Baker, Esq.       | Mort   |
| ..... 1727         | Rev. ——— Mason. ....                  | Edw. Wortley           | Mort   |
| ..... 1743         | Rev. Thomas Cockshutt, M. A. ....     | Earl of Bute           | Mort   |
| ..... 1774         | Rev. Joseph Scott. ....               | Lord Wharcliffe.       |        |
|                    | Rev. F. Foxlowe, M. A. ....           |                        |        |

# GROVE.

## CHAP. XIV.

**General Description, &c.—Castle Hill Wood—  
The Parish Church, &c.—Catalogue of Rectors  
—Family of the Cyres.**

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

THE barony of Grove, with the manor of West Retford, was part of the large property granted by William the Conqueror, to Roger de Busli, and is thus noted in Domesday survey:—

**¶** In Grave. h̄br Aluni & Osmund. IIII. bou tra<sup>7 7</sup>  
& dim ad gld. Tra. III. cār. Ibi Robt. hō Rog<sup>7</sup>  
In Ordesbale ht. I. cār & dim. & VI uill & III bord. & I.  
I. bo & dim<sup>7 7</sup> soch hntes II. car & dim. Ibi p̄br & æcla. &  
Tra. I. car. VIII. ac pti. Silua past. I. lev lg. & dim lat.  
T. R. E. ual. XI. sol. m. similit.

From Roger de Busli it came to Gerbert (or Gilbert) de Arches, Baro de Grove, (in the early part of the reign



of Henry the second,) whose great grand-daughter, Theophania, being a co-heiress, carried it to Malvesinus de Hercy, in the reign of Henry the third. It continued in the Hercy family till Sir John de Hercy bequeathed it to Barbara, one of his sisters, and co-heiress, who had married George Nevile, Esq. of Ragnall, in whose family it continued till the latter end of the seventeenth century, when Sir Edward Nevile sold it to Sir Creswell Levinz, one of the Judges of the Common Pleas. Sir Creswell Levinz was succeeded by his son, William Levinz, who resided at Grove, and was sometime one of the members for East Retford, and afterwards for the county. This William Levinz left a son, William, who alienated the greatest part of his inheritance, and sold the manor and estate of Grove, with its appurtenances, in the year 1762, to Anthony Eyre, Esq. of Rampton, and of Adwick, the father of Anthony Hardolph Eyre, Esq. the present possessor. A large brick house, in the old English style, with gable ends, and mullion windows, had been erected at Grove, at a period which is not known, and had undergone considerable alterations. During the wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster, the Hercy family, with their neighbours the Stanhopes, of Rampton, were active supporters of the House of Lancaster, and during the arduous struggle for superiority, were frequently surrounded by dangers of no common kind; till at length victory

"To Tudor's brow transfer'd the gem,  
The long disputed diadem."

Afterwards, as a mark of their zeal, and as a remembrance of their past services, they each of them inserted in the walls of their respective mansions, a sculptured rose and crown, the device assumed by Henry the seventh, and by many of his adherents. This device was placed in the house at Grove, over a large Gothic window, which lighted the principal staircase. Sir Creswell Levinz and his son, made some alterations in the house, and Mr. Eyre after he purchased it, entirely altered the character of it, removing the whole of the ancient roof; and pulling down a considerable part of the south-west front, in the place of which, under the direction of Mr. Carr, the architect, he built a suite of rooms of handsome and more convenient dimensions. In making this alteration, he took down a stone tower, which must have been built in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and under it were found a considerable number of the coins of that Queen's reign.

The lordship of Grove is extensive, containing about 1500 acres, part of which is covered with wood, and the rest is occupied, either in grazing, or to agricultural purposes.

The situation of Grove Hall, is said to be the most elevated and picturesque in the county; on all sides, the views are pleasing and extensive: to the east the levels of Lincolnshire appear beautifully tinted with variety, the view of which, is backed with the noble promontory on which part of the city of Lincoln stands,

whilst the minster rears its venerable head, and overlooks the vast plains which extend themselves until the ocean terminates their bounds. To the west the view is equally extensive, the ancient forest of Sherwood, from the numerous woods and plantations which rear their heads in every direction, reminds the beholder of ancient days, when the famous oaks displayed their towering boughs; this very interesting view is only terminated by the hills of Kinderscout in Derbyshire. To the north and south, numerous objects are distinguishable, to enumerate which, would exceed my limits, and the place must be visited ere the beautiful scenery can be properly appreciated.

. CASTLE HILL WOOD,

"All hail! ye mighty, venerable works  
Of our forefathers, great in deeds of arms!  
To late posterity memorial stand  
Of their immortal fame."

The situation of Grove, being bold and commanding, and strongly fortified by nature, we can hardly suppose that it would escape the attention of those warriors, who, in ancient days led on their respective armies to the combat, as being a place admirably suited for military purposes, and capable of being used as an exploratory situation to the greatest possible advantage. Accordingly I find such traces as strikingly corroborates the above supposition.

Within the precincts of the parish, is a wood, gene-

rally designated "*Castle Hill Wood*," where, as its name imports, has formerly stood a castle on a mount, which appears to have been surrounded by a double trench of considerable magnitude, having the entrance to the south-east.\* To the south-east of this mount is a piece of ground, now almost level, where the traces of foundations are discernible; this is surrounded by a moat, both wide and deep, having formerly circumscribed a mansion or castle, but of which no memorials are now in existence. This place, as well as the one just alluded to, together with the greatest part of an extensive wood, are still circumvallated, and a trench or foss, in some instances double, may be distinctly traced for upwards of a mile.

It is generally acknowledged that this part of the country formed a portion of the settlements of the Coritani, but that in common with the rest of the island, it became a prey to the Roman armies, who, in making the conquest, were necessitated to undergo considerable hardships and privations, and on obtaining possession, to cast up those fortresses and bulwarks, which, in almost every part of the kingdom, remain to the present time, as mementos of their bravery and determined perseverance.

To this period therefore, it appears to me, may be

---

\* The situation is particularly noted in some of the oldest maps of this county, under the appellation of "*Little Gringley Castle*."

properly attributed the formation of these extensive works, although others have supposed them to have been originally British. With this opinion I am not inclined to coincide, because there are other circumstances concurring with the above, tending to confirm the supposition of their being of Roman origin. About a mile beyond Gringley are the traces of an encampment to the right of the road leading to Leverton; which road has every appearance of having been Roman, and was continued to North Leverton onward to the Roman station at Littleborough,\* without fetching the compass

---

\* This place has occupied the attention of antiquarians for a long period, in attempting to fix upon it as the Segelocum, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. Camden, in his first edition of the Britannica in 1594, had fixed this station at Eaton, but afterwards, it is said, he changed his opinion in favour of Littleborough. Mr. Horsley, also decidedly says "Segelocum or Agelocum, as called in two *Iters*, is certainly Littleborough." Dr. Gale was of the same opinion; and Pegge, in his *British Topography*, seems to coincide therewith. To such an host of observations and conjectures, I cannot presume to add any thing, save that of recording an humble opinion in favour of that given by Mr. Horsley.

In 1684, when the inclosures between the bridge and town were first ploughed up, many coins of Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Constantine, &c. were found, together with Intaglios of Agate, and Cornelian, the finest coloured urns, and *pateræ*, some wrought in basso relievo, with the workman's name generally impressed on the inside of the bottom; also a *discus*, or quoit, with an emperor's head embossed upon it. Again, in 1718, two

towards South Leverton, which it now does; and the old road may still be traced, being, with the intervention of a wood, nearly entire.\*

#### THE PARISH CHURCH, ETC.

The period when this church was founded is not exactly known, but in all probability it was anterior to the conquest, as in Domesday-book is observed, that here was a priest and a church, and eight acres of meadow; pasture wood one league long and half-a-one broad, of the yearly value of 40*s*. Anciently it was a double rectory, and also a vicarage of medieties, but on the 3rd of the nones of May, 1227, Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York, consolidated them, when George de Ordsall, who was vicar of one mediety, was presented to the whole by Malvesinus de Hercy, (the

very handsomely moulded altars were dug up, and in 1759, the drawing of another was communicated to the society of antiquaries. A curious *tassetta*, or tally, was also found near this place; these tallies were supposed to have been used in the Roman armies, to distinguish each other from the enemy, and for setting the nightly watch.

\* On this road, between Leverton and Littleborough, formerly existed a stone bridge, about the repairs of which, several disputes arose. In 1253, the court of Owardbeck was held at Sturton, when an inquisition was taken, as to whether the inhabitants of Sturton and Fenton, or the abbot of Welbeck, should repair it; the jurors gave it in favour of the abbot. Another inquisition was likewise held at Retford, in 1290, when the jury found as before.

first of that ancient family,) on condition that he should allow the rector 28s. per annum, for ever.

In 1425, Sir Thomas Hercy, Knight, bequeathed to the rector of this church, "in name of his principal," his best horse with his array, according to his estate. Humphrey Hercy, Esq. at his death, bequeathed "his soul to God, and his body to be buried in the Queare or Chancel of the Invention of the Crosse of Grove."

The situation of this church is peculiarly pleasing and interesting; seated on an eminence, and surrounded by trees rendered venerable from their great age, it may with propriety be stiled a place where

"The traveller outworn with life's pilgrimage dreary,  
Lays down his rude staff, like one that is weary,  
And sweetly reposes for ever."

Indeed, the whole scene is calculated to excite those finer feelings of the mind whilst ruminating over the scattered fragments of mortality; whilst they, unconscious of the visitors tread, sleep on in silence and obscurity. Here the ashes of some of the bravest and best of human kind commingle together, and although the destroyer—Time, has obliterated nearly all the visible signs which once mark'd the hallowed spot, he has not yet been enabled altogether to blast with his oblivious breath those records which bear testimony that they have once existed.

The church is small and ancient; it is dedicated to St. Helen, and consists of a nave and chancel; in its

exterior it has nothing whereof to boast, its interior is simple, clean, and in good repair. The tower is squat and contains two bells.

Within the chancel are two or three curious antique monumental floor stones, on one of which is inscribed an ornamental cross, but the rest is illegible. By the side of this is another to the memory of Hugo de Hercy, on which

"Outstretch'd together are express,  
He and my Lady fair;  
With hands uplifted on the breast,  
In attitude of prayer.

This is an alabaster slab, six feet six inches long, and three feet three inches broad; one of the figures represents a man in armour, on his head a hat and feather, a greyhound at his feet looking up,—the face worn out: at his side a woman,—her face and head-dress very indistinct, on the left side of her head some appearance of a reticulated dress. The crack across the stone is so splintered that whatsoever has been at her feet is not now to be known. Above the man's head is a shield, but the colours are quite indistinct; above the woman's, the saltire is engraved, with a round pell,—it appears black, being inlaid with pitch. Near the edge of the stone—

"*Hic jacet Hugo Hercy qui obiit VI die Decembris anno Dni m. cccc. l. b. et Elizabeth uxor ejus quae obiit anno Dni m. cccc. l. animae proprietur Deus.*"

In the aisle is another, having the following,—

Reverend Katharine Neville obiit 17mo. die Maii 1683.



In the chancel is a neat mural monument as under,—

To the memory of WILLIAM LEVINZ, Esq. only son of Sir Creswell Levinz, Kt. Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, whose many virtues he inherited, having represented in Parliament for many years the Borough of East Retford, and then this county, with uncommon abilities, diligence, and integrity: he died May 7th, 1747, aged 76 years. He married Anne, daughter of Samuel Buck, Esq. barrister at law, a partner worthy of so much merit, who died June 15th 1726, in the 51st year of her age, and lieth here interred.

*A Catalogue of the Rectors of Grove.*

| TEMP. INST.        | RECTORES ECCLÆ.                 | PATRONI.          | VACAT. |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 8th Ides Mar. 1237 | Dms Ru de la Mon, Cl. ....      | Will. Rufus       |        |
| 5 Kal. July 1302   | Dms Step. de Woblington, Sub.   | Hugo de Hercy     |        |
| Ides March, 1307   | Dms Robt. Brennand de Lever-    | ijdem             |        |
| 14 Kal. Oct. 1308  | ton, Cl. ....                   | ijdem             |        |
| Ides Oct. 1309     | Dms John de Hercy, Cl. ....     | ijdem             |        |
| 6 Ides April, 1315 | Dms John de Corbridge, Pbr.     | ijdem             | p Mort |
| 7 Kal. Mail, 1341  | Dms John de Scardeburgh,        | Sir Hugo de       |        |
|                    | Acolites .....                  | Hercy             |        |
|                    | Dms Thos. de Amcotes, Acoli-    |                   |        |
|                    | tes .....                       |                   |        |
|                    | Dms Thos. fil. Robt. de Ask-    |                   | p Mort |
|                    | ham, Pbr. ....                  |                   |        |
| 1398               | Dms Will. Rong, Pbr. ....       |                   | p Mort |
| 18th March, 1428   | Dms Will. Stayne, Pbr. ....     | Kath. Hercy       | p Reig |
| 9th Junii, 1431    | Dms John Brantyngham, Pbr.      | eadem             |        |
| 1st April, 1434    | Dms John Stephenson, Pbr ..     | eadem             | p Reig |
| 24th Maffi, 1464   | Dms Thomas Walmsley, Pbr        | Feoffators. Hu-   | p Reig |
|                    |                                 | gonis Hercy       |        |
| 13th Aug. 1467     | Dms Thos. Sathworth. ....       | ijdem             | p Reig |
| 4th April, 1472    | Dms Thos. Bib, Cap. ....        | ijdem             | p Mort |
| 9th Sep. 1472      | Dms Rich. Levesay, Cap. ....    | ijdem             | p Reig |
| 23rd Sep. 1487     | Dms Will. Mauleverer, Cap...    | — Hercy, Esq.     | p Mort |
| 7th Sep. 1502      | Dms Cuthbert Darwin, Pbr...     | ijdem             | p Mort |
| 2nd Oct. 1506      | Dms Robt. Nevill, Cl. ....      | ijdem             | p Reig |
| 18th Feb. 1512     | Dms Thos. Elton, Pbr. ....      | ijdem             | p Reig |
| 14th Sep. 1521     | Dms Matthias Witton, A. M. .    | Ja. Hercy, Esq.   | p Priv |
|                    | Dms John Robynson, Cl. ....     | ijdem             |        |
| 1st Sep. 1554      | Dms Will. Perpoynt. ....        | Sir John Hercy    |        |
| 6th May, 1579      | Rev. Francis Nevill, Cl. ....   | Geo. Nevill, Esq. | p Mort |
| 21st Sep. 1611     | Rev. Gervas Nevill, Cl. M. A. . | Will. Nevill,     |        |
|                    |                                 | Esq.              |        |
|                    | Rev. Walter Bridges, Cl. ....   | Ed. Nevill, Esq.  | p Mort |
|                    |                                 | Extors Ed.        |        |
| 15th Sep. 1662     | Rev. Nathan Townell. ....       | Nevill, Esq.      | p Mort |
|                    |                                 | Wm. Wogan, &      |        |
| 1689               | Rev. ....                       | Sam. Bach, Esq.   |        |
| 1726               | Rev. Stephen Cooper. ....       | Will. Levinz,     | p Mort |
| 1737               | Rev. Robt. Wright. ....         | Esq.              |        |
| 1749               | Rev. Wm. Pashley. ....          | — Levinz, Esq.    | p Mort |
|                    | Rev. Charles Eyre. ....         | A. H. Eyre, Esq.  | p Mort |
| 1799               | Rev. A. Yonle, M. A. ....       | Ditto.            |        |

The living of Grove is a rectory, and when Mr. Hercy was pater, it was valued at £10; it is now £11. 14s. 2d. in the king's books, and pays for tenths, £1. 3s. 5d.; for first fruits, 6s. 8d.; and for synodals, 3s. Patron, Anthony Hardolph Eyre, Esq. Incumbent, Rev. Abraham Youle, M. A.

FAMILY OF THE EYRES.

The Eyre family came over from Normandy, with William the Conqueror; and we find it early settled in the county of Derby. By an *Inquisitio post mortem* taken in the reign of Edward the first, it appears that Robert le Eyre was settled at Hope, in Derbyshire, which he held for being hereditary warden of the Peak Forest; we find also by an *Inquisitio post mortem* in the reign of Edward the third, that William le Eyre de Hope, was also warden of the forests of Edale, Hassop, and Derwent. One of this family married Joan of Padley, who being an heiress, brought to her husband the manor and estate of Padley, and other considerable estates in the county of Derby. From the Eyres of Hope, many scions branched off, settled in different places, and became heads of families.\* One branch

\* One branch of this family settled at Hassop, in the county of Derby, and still resides there; and having married the heiress of the Ratcliffe family, obtained the earldom of Newburgh, which title, the present possessor of Hassop, now enjoys. Another branch settled at Rowter, in Derbyshire, and the last of this

settled at Kiveton, on the borders of Yorkshire ; and besides Kiveton, possessed the large manor of Newbolt, in the county of Derby. A descendant of this family, Anthony Eyre, of Kiveton, married Barbara, relict of John Babington, Esq. of Rampton, Nottinghamshire, (a younger branch of the Babingtons, of Dethick,) daughter of Sir Henry Nevile, of Grove ; and his son, Sir Gervas Eyre, married the daughter and co-heiress of the above John and Barbara Babington. This Sir Gervas Eyre, took an active part in favour of Charles the first, during the troubles in that reign. He raised and commanded several troops of horse for the king, and was esteemed one of the best horsemen in the king's army. He died at the siege of Newark ; where also his father, General Eyre, lost his life. Sir Gervas and his father, sold the property at Kiveton and Newbolt, to Sir Edward Osbourn, ancestor of the Duke of Leeds, and came to reside at Rampton. The son of Sir Gervas Eyre,—Anthony Eyre, was chosen knight of the shire for the county of Nottingham, at the first new Parliament, which was summoned by Charles the se-

---

branch left a daughter and heiress, who married the late Viscount Massarene, and the whole has since been sold. Another branch having married an heiress of Gell, of Hopton, assumed the name and arms of Gell, and his descendants continue to reside at Hopton. Other branches also settled in the neighbourhood of Sheffield and Chesterfield, and the Eyres of Wiltshire, and of Ireland, can trace their pedigree to the Eyres of Hope.

cond, and he served in that Parliament till his death. Gervas Eyre, the son of the above Anthony, was returned to Parliament at different times, as knight of the shire, and died of the small-pox in London, in 1702, when attending his duty in Parliament. He left a son, Anthony, (with other children,) a minor, who pulled down the old family house at Rampton, and removed to an estate which he had at Laughton-en-le-Morthen, until he purchased the estate of Adwicke, near Doncaster, of his uncle, Sir George Cooke. He then removed to Adwicke, and continued to reside there till his death; he was buried at Laughton. He left one son, Anthony, and four daughters. Anthony married Judith Letitia Bury, daughter of John Bury, Esq. and great niece of Sir Hardolph Wastneys, Bart. of Headon Park, in the county of Nottingham. He purchased of Mr. Levinz, in 1762, the estate and appurtenances of Grove, which joined to the old family estates of Rampton and Treswell; and to Headon, which came to him by his wife. He then removed to Grove, where he made great alterations in the house and place, and made it his principal residence till his death in 1788. He served in several Parliaments for the borough of Boroughbridge. He had four sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Anthony Hardolph, was brought up in the army, and obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and was for some time member of Parliament for the county of Nottingham. He

married in 1783, Francisca Alicia, third daughter of Richard Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. of Lathom House, Lancashire, and sister to the present Lord Skelmersdale, and had by her one son, Gervase Anthony, born October 29th, 1791, who was also in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and was unfortunately killed at the victory gained at Barrosa, in Spain, March 7th, 1811, in his 20th year. He has also three daughters, the eldest of whom, Mary Letitia, married the present Earl Manvers, and has by him Charles Evelyn, Viscount Newark, and other children. Frances Julia, his second daughter, married Granville Venables Vernon, Esq. son of the Right Hon. Edward Vernon, brother of Lord Vernon, and Archbishop of York, and by him has several children. Henrietta, his third daughter, married first, in 1816, her cousin, John Hardolph, eldest son of Archdeacon Eyre, who died S. P. 1818. Secondly, in 1825, Henry Gally Knight, Esq. of Firbeck Hall, Yorkshire.

John, the second son of the above Anthony Eyre, was brought up in the church, and became Rector of Babworth, Canon residentiary of York, Prebendary of Southwell, and Archdeacon of Nottingham. He married in 1790, Charlotte, daughter of Sir George Armytage, of Kirklees, Bart. by whom he had several children, two of which only survive, Charles Wasteneys, in Holy Orders, Rector of Carlton in Lindric, Notts. and Charlotte, married to Henry Willoughby Esq. M. P. of Settrington, Yorkshire.

Charles, the third son of the above Anthony Eyre, was brought up in the church, and became Rector of Headon cum Upton, and of Grove; and died unmarried.

George, the fourth son of the above Anthony Eyre, was brought up in the navy. He obtained the honor of knighthood for his gallantry in taking the Island of Santa Maria, in the Mediterranean, and was afterwards made K. C. B. and became an Admiral. He married Georgiana, daughter of Sir George Cooke, of Wheatley, Bart. and has by her several children. The eldest of whom, George, is Rector of Molesworth, Huntingdonshire; and the second son is a Captain in the army,—he has also six daughters.

The arms are

Argent, on a chevron, sable, three quarterfoils, or; their crest, an armed leg.

# CLARBOROUGH.

## CHAP. XV.

General Description, &c.—The Parish Church, &c.—Catalogue of Vicars—The Hamlet of Bolham—Hamlet of Melham—Hamlets of Moorgate and Spittal-Hill—Hamlet of Little Greenley.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, ETC.

As usual I must again refer to that original record, Domesday-book, for the oldest account we have of this place, that can be depended upon. The mention there made of Clarborough, is as follows:—

**¶** In *CLAFERBERG*. h̄b Ragenald. II bov. tre ad ḡld. Tra. II cār. Ibi Fulco h̄o Rog. ht dim car. & VIII. uill. & I bord. cū. I. car & dim. & VII. acs pti. Silua past. III. q̄ lg. & II. lāt. T. R. E. ual. VI sōl. K. m° XX. sol.

Ibide h̄b. Vlchil dim bou træ ad ḡld. cū saca & soca. Tra. II. bob. Idem ipse Vlchil tenet de Rogero & ht ibi. II. bōrd. cū. II. bob. & I. acra pti. Silua past. II. q̄. lg. & I. lat. T. R. E. & m̄ ual. XVI.

From which we learn that part of Clarborough belonged to the king's great soke of Mansfield, paying the tax for two and a quarter bovats of land. The land was one caracute. There was also at that time two soke-men, one villain, and one border having six oxen in plough, and two mills, the whole valued at 32*s*. Also six acres of meadow, valued at 40*s*. There was likewise land here of the fee of Sutton, belonging to the Archbishop of York, which paid for six bovats and a half of land, to the public tax. The meadow land was four quarents and a half square, which, at the general survey, was estimated at forty-five acres. Roger de Busli also held certain lands here, which, previous to the conquest, was held by Reginald; afterwards Fulco the tenant of Roger, had half a caracute, eight villains, one border, one caracute and a half of land, and seven acres of meadow, which in the Confessor's time, was valued at 6*s*., but in the Conqueror's at 20*s*. Ulchil also held of Roger two bovats of land, and had two borders, with two oxen, and one acre of meadow, which was also valued at 16*s*. The Taynes also had a manor here, held by Ulmer, and paid the tax for one bovat and a half of land, having sac and soke without a hall. Afterwards the said Ulmer held it under the king, and had two villains, one border, and half a caracute, and three acres of meadow; it in the Confessor's time was estimated at 3*s*., in the Conqueror's at 2*s*. In the time of the Confessor, Archil also held property here,



valued at 4*s*.—in the Conqueror's time, Erwin held it, when it was valued at 2*s*.

For some time subsequent to this, it does not distinctly appear to whom the lands descended, at least so as to trace their course with certainty; we find, however, in the fifteenth century, that Thomas Fitzwilliam held of Alice, Countess of Augi, the lady of Tickhill, three parts of a knight's fee in Clarborough and West Drayton. John de Boughton also held here five acres of land, three roods of meadow, and two parts of a messuage with the appurtenances. Sir Robert Waterton, Kt. also held lands here. In the year 1537, Alexander Bannister and Marmadake Fankya, claimed against William Bannister, twenty messuages, ten tofts, four hundred acres of land, forty of meadow, one hundred of pasture, and forty of farze and heath, with the appurtenances in Clarborough and elsewhere. In 1574, Thomas Denman and Thomas Dawes, claimed against Francis Denman, clerk, two messuages, &c. in Clarborough. In 1612, the freeholders in the village of Clarborough were Thomas Fee, gent. Alexander Sherbrooke, sen. William Barker, John Otter, Dennis Huddlestone, and Richard Harpham.

The village, which contains several tolerably well built houses, is long and straggling, yet of a cheerful and healthy appearance; it stands at the foot of a hill, about two miles north-east of East Retford, on the Gainsbro' road. The land, generally speaking, is

strong and useful, being well adapted either for grazing, or for agricultural purposes; a considerable portion of which, until recently, was the property of the Duke of Devonshire; but it is now divided into a great number of small freeholds.

#### **THE PARISH CHURCH.**

This church was founded and endowed in 1258, and was, by Sewall, Archbishop of York, given to his newly founded chapel of St. Mary and All Angels, (sometimes called St. Sepulchres,) near the minster at York. On the 4th of the nones of May in that year, it was consecrated by Sewall, who directed that the vicar should have the altarage, with a toft and croft lying next to the church yard, the tythes of the enclosed crofts of the town, and the tythes of the mills at Bolum, with which he should also find honest sustentation for the chaplain at Greenley, and to another chaplain, if he should serve at Clarborough, Wellum, and Bolum. Gilbert de Tyva, (who was made sacrist,) and his successors, was ordered to give therefrom, to the poor of the parish, five marks yearly. The patronage of this living came to the crown at the dissolution of the before mentioned chapel, in which it continued until king James granted it to Lord Cavendish, afterwards Earl of Devonshire, in whose gift, and his heirs, it continued to be vested until recently, when it was purchased by Richard Woodhouse, Esq. of London.

In 1393, Clarborough formed one of the prebends of the cathedral at York, at which time Roger de Weston was prebendary; by whom it was created, or when discontinued, I have not been able to learn.

The church stands to the south-east of the village, on the side of a hill, and is surrounded by an extensive burial ground, where the silent ashes of the dead commingle with their parent earth. The building consists of a nave, a chancel, and two side aisles; the tower is squat and embattled, and contains three bells.

I remember visiting this church five years ago, when the outside was in a most delapidated condition, and the interior far from prepossessing; on my late visit, however, I was gratified to find that a great change had been made for the better; the whole of the inner walls having been drawn and squared in imitation of stonework; a considerable portion of the body been repewed; a gallery been erected at the west end, and a small organ, (for which the parishioners are indebted to the munificence of H. C. Hutchinson, Esq.) Several of the windows are entirely new, and the whole fabric is highly creditable to those under whose management the improvements have been effected.

There are at present few monumental inscriptions remaining of antiquarian importance; the following are the chief.

Beneath the altar rails,—

Here lyeth the body of EDMUND BROWNE, who died the 4th of Feb. 1677,

On another adjoining, surmounted by a shield,—

Here is interred the body of Mr. ROBERT MOWER, who departed this life the 7th July, 1748, aged 39 years.

Within the altar rails,—

Here lieth the body of JANE SMITH, daughter of Mary Southworth, and daughter-in-law to Edward Southworth, of Wellam, who died the 17th of May, 1673.

Adjoining the above,—

Here lieth the body of ELIZABETH SOUTHWORTH, daughter of Edward Southworth, and Mary, his wife, of Wellom, who died the 7th of June, 1675.

Inside the altar rails to the north,—

Sacred to the memory of JOHN THOROLD, Esq. ob. June, 14, 1812, aged 29 years: of Rev. CHARLES THOROLD, late of Peter House, Cambridge, ob. May 8, 1820, aged 32 years: the third and fourth sons of Samuel Thorold, Esq. and of Susannah his wife. Also to the memory of Mrs ELIZABETH GOODACRE, ob. Sept. 13, 1815, aged 95 years; the mother of the above Susannah Thorold.

Without the altar rails,—

Sacred to the memory of SAMUEL THOROLD, of Welham, Esq. son of the late Sir John Thorold, Bart. of Cranwell, in the county of Lincoln, died 18th January, 1825, in the 76th year of his age.

Under the gallery, at the west end, is a mural monument, surmounted by a female figure weeping over an urn, with a long inscription as under,—

Here lies interred the body of THOMAS OUTYBRIDGE, late of Bollow House, who died the 27th August, 1772, aged 43 years. CATHARINE, the daughter of the said Thomas Outybridge, and Catharine his wife, died the 9th July, 1766, aged 5 months. THOMAS their son, died the 15th July, 1771, aged 5 months. MILDRED their daughter, died the 26th Dec. 1772, aged 3 years and 10 months. Catharine their daughter, died the 1st January, 1773, aged 7 months. Not lost, but gone before. In a dormitory beneath this place, are deposited the earthly remains of Mary Outybridge, the only surviving child of the said Thomas Outybridge, and Catharine his wife; she departed this life the 21st of August, 1808, aged 41 years.

"Thou fair example from thy early youth,  
Of modest wisdom, and pacific truth:  
Compos'd in sufferings, and in joy sedate,  
Thy faith and hope in God and Christ was great.  
Go that where only bliss sincere is known,  
Go where to love and to enjoy are one.  
Yet take these tears, mortality's relief,  
And till I share thy bliss, forgive my grief.  
This small remembrance on this stone receive,  
'Tis all a mother, all a friend can give."

After a weary pilgrimage on earth, here rest the remains of Cath. Harrison, mother of the above named children, who she humbly hopes to meet in heaven, died 18th Sept. 1825, aged 78.

*A Catalogue of the Vicars of Clarborough.*

| TEMP. INST.       | RECTORES ECCLÆ.                              | PATRON                         | VACAT. |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 3 Nones Oct. 1286 | Dms Aclam de Lund, Pbr....                   | Sacrista Capella<br>St. Mary's |        |
| 5 Ides Nov. 1322  | Dms Thos. de Burton, Pbr....                 | idem                           | Mort   |
| 2 Nones Jun. 1329 | Dms Joh. David, Pbr.....                     | idem                           | Resig  |
| 2 Cal. July, 1341 | Dms Aclam de Claylas.....                    | idem                           | Resig  |
| 16th Nov. 1349    | Dms Thos. de Grenley, Cap. ..                | idem                           |        |
|                   | Dms Will. de Herpswell, Pbr                  | idem                           |        |
| 18th April, 1392  | Dms Thos. Cook de Magna<br>Cressingham ..... | idem                           |        |
| 18th Dec. 1396    | Dms Will. de Patrington .....                | idem                           |        |
| 20th Nov. 1404    | Dms Robt. Sparrow, Cap.....                  | idem                           | Resig  |
| 14th Aug. 1405    | Dms Robt. Baxter de Rafyn,<br>Cap.....       | idem                           | Mort   |
| 2nd March, 1410   | Dms Henry de Dighton, Pbr..                  | idem                           | Mort   |
| 19th June, 1434   | Dms Rog. Burn, Pbr. ....                     | idem                           | Mort   |
| 18th Dec. 1437    | Dms Robt. Donyngton.....                     | idem                           |        |
|                   | Dms Thos. West, Pbr.....                     | idem                           | Resig  |
| 14th March, 1455  | Dms Robt. Cowper.....                        | idem                           |        |
|                   | Dms John Witton, Pbr.....                    | idem                           | Mort   |
| 24th June, 1485   | Dms Rich. Godson, Cap.....                   | idem                           |        |
|                   | Dms Robt. Yong, Pbr.....                     | idem                           | Resig  |
| 10th Feb. 1488    | Dms Thos. Gedling.....                       | idem                           | Resig  |
| 20th April, 1491  | Dms Henry Crowder, Pbr.....                  | idem                           | Resig  |
| 11th May, 1508    | Dms John Thakbarrow.....                     | idem                           | Mort   |
| 11th April, 1550  | Dms Robt. Armisted, Cl.....                  | Edward the 6th<br>Queen Eliz.  | Mort   |
| 21st May, 1577    | Nic. Watlyng; Cl.....                        | Will. Dms Ca-<br>vendish       | Resig  |
| 21st June, 1617   | Will. Howe, Pbr. B. A.....                   | Will. com. De-<br>vonshire     |        |
| 10th Nov. 1629    | Nath. Hunte, Pbr. M. A.....                  | idem                           | Camus  |
|                   | Richard Eyre, Cl.....                        | idem                           | Mort   |
| 20th Dec. 1661    | Richard Browneft.....                        | idem                           | Mort   |
|                   | Rev. Benjamin Burrow.....                    | idem                           | Mort   |
|                   | Rev. Thomas Moore.....                       | idem                           | Mort   |
| _____ 1726        | Rev. William Justice.....                    | idem                           | Mort   |
| _____ 1740        | Rev. Edmund Mower.....                       | idem                           | Mort   |
| _____ 1756        | Rev. Charles Cartwright.....                 | idem                           | Mort   |
| _____ 1787        | Rev. Joshua Flint.....                       | idem                           | Mort   |
| _____ 1827        | Rev. Joshua William Brooks..                 | Richard Wood-<br>house, Esq.   |        |

The living is a discharged vicarage, and the church is dedicated to St. John the baptist. It was valued at £8 when the sacrist of St. Mary's was patron; it is valued at £9. 15s. 4d. in the king's books. Patron, Richard Woodhouse, Esq. Incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Brooks.

## THE HAMLET OF BOLHAM.

Before the conquest, Tuvert held part of the land here, and paid for the same to the Dane-geld for seven bovats, afterwards it became of the fee of Roger de Busli. In Domesday-book it is stated to be of the berue of the soke of Laneham, belonging to the Archbishop of York. Subsequently Gaufrey, the man (or tenant) of Roger, held at Bolum, one caracute, two sokemen, four villains, three borders, having four caracutes and a half of land. The meadow land was eight quarents long, and two broad; the pasture and wood land one league long, and three quarents broad; which altogether, in the Confessor's time, was valued at 40s. in the Conqueror's at 50s.

It appears, almost from time immemorial, that Bolham has had a mill within its precincts, which once belonged to the ancient and worthy family of the Lovetots, of Worksop, and was by Emma, the wife of William de Lovetot, given to the monastery of St. Cuthbert, near Worksop, to buy wine for the use of the mass; as was also the assart\* of Assaley, to make wafers for the celebration of the same sacrament. Matilda de Lovetot, the last of the family of the Lovetots, who

---

\* An *assart* was a piece of ground *assarted*; that is, grubbed or cleared; from *sarrin*, to weed: according to Nichols, "*Assarts* was a forest phrase for a cultivated spot, from the French *assartir*, to make plain."

married Gerard de Furnival, confirmed this gift, and also another of *all* Bolum, with the land and mill, which Richard de Lovetot, her grandfather, had previously given.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry the eighth, by letters patent, dated October 28th, 1545, granted this manor to Sir Robert Swyft, Kt. and his brother William, and their heirs, together with two mills there, (one of which was designated as a Walk Mill,) and two gardens called the Chappel and Old Yard, which continued in their family until 1565, when it was conveyed to Francis Wortley, Esq.; it is now the property of the Thorold family.

That a chapel once existed here, will not admit of a doubt, as the situation on which it stood is still designated "*The Chapel Yard*," and mention is made of it in Archbishop Greenfield's Register; but at what period it was founded there are no records to show. One of the said Archbishops gave the church at Bolum, with the appurtenances, then belonging to a prebend at York, and valued at ten marks, to William de Lanum, in the absence of the prebendary.

Bolham is situated on the river Idle, one mile north of Retford, and consists of ten or twelve habitations, all, with one exception, formed by excavations in the sand rock; the situation is agreeably romantic. The light tendrils of the ivy creeping along the rocks, with here and there a wild flower rearing its unassuming

head, gives an air of pensive serenity to the place which cannot fail to affect the mind of the spectator,—whilst a column of curling smoke rising here and there from the grass-clad roofs of nature's humble cots, recalls to memory "the days of other years," when our rude forefathers were wanderers on the earth, with no habitations, but dens and caves,—no food, but what the land spontaneously gave,—no covering, save the skins of beasts,—no drapery, save the sky.

## THE HAMLET OF WELHAM.

In Domesday record "Wellome" is said to belong to the king's soke of Mansfield, and paid, along with Suventon (not known) the tax for five bovats and a third; the meadow land was certified to be one quarent and a half long, and one quarent and ten perches broad; the pasture wood nineteen quarents long, and two and a half broad, which was altogether valued at 10*s.* 8*d.* Here also was some land belonging to the Archbishop of York's fee, valued at the same as the above.

About the middle of the twelfth century, there was certain lands here belonging to the Lovetots, of Work-sop, which was by Matilda, the last survivor of that family, given to the canons of Radforde, (near Work-sop,) for the safety of her soul, and the souls of all her sons. This property it appears was considerable, comprehending the greatest part of the hamlet, as I find in the year 1517, it was rented at £5. 5*s.* 8*d.*



besides chief rents amounting to £1. 1s. 6d. a year, which, at the dissolution, was sold to Richard Richardson, jun. of Clarborough, from whom it descended to Gabriel his son, who, on the 1st of January, 1565, sold it to three brothers,—Christopher, George, and Bryan Twiselden; part of it in 1634, became the property of Edmund Browne, Esq. he died on the 4th of February, 1677, when it descended to two daughters. The Duke of Devonshire formerly possessed considerable property here, which was sold in 1813. It is now chiefly owned by the Messrs. Hutchinsons, Mrs. Thorold, Mr. Mower, and Mr. Wheelwright.

Nearly in the centre of the village, formerly stood a chapel, but of which, no records are now remaining to shew at what period it was either erected or endowed, or even when it was dismantled. Within what is now termed the chapel yard, the marks of the foundation are discernible, and the ground altogether about an acre.

Welham, or the hamlet of the Well, is supposed to have derived its name from a once celebrated spring (St. John's Well) near the place, which was formed into a large bath, and still remains entire; during the early part of the last century, it was famous for many cures; but latterly it has lost much of its celebrity. The late John Hutchinson, Esq. erected a cottage adjoining, and enclosed the bath, to preserve it from injury. Here was, until lately, a feast, or fair, held

annually on St. John's day, to which the neighbouring villagers resorted to enjoy such rural sports or games as fancy might dictate. Cold baths like this were formerly regarded with superstitious reverence, being supposed to possess a sovereign remedy for agues, rheumatism, &c.

This hamlet is pleasantly situate on the Gainsbro' road, about a mile from East Retford, and contains four or five tolerably well built houses, of which those belonging to H. C. Hutchinson, Esq. Mrs. Thorold, G. Mower, Esq. and S. Thorold, Esq. are the chief. The land in the neighbourhood is of a superior kind, and some of it is, and has been, very productive in the growth of hops.

#### **MOORGATE AND SPITTAL HILL**

Are also hamlets within the parish of Claborough, and contain 1920 inhabitants, nevertheless, I find nothing very ancient respecting them, and not even mentioned before the year 1524. They adjoin the borough of East Retford, and to a person unacquainted therewith, they would be supposed to be a part of that place, from which they are divided by a small stream of water. Within the last half century, the number of buildings has increased considerably, which may in a great measure be attributed to their proximity to East Retford. The land (with the exception of the common which was enclosed in 1709) is chiefly grass, the rest

is laid out into garden ground, which is very profitable to the occupiers.

Moorgate is wide and spacious, and contains several well-built houses; a portion of which, and the greatest part of Spittal Hill, stands on a sand rock similar to that at Bolham.

In consequence of these hamlets having become so thickly populated, and the mother church at Clarborough being at such a great distance, it has been thought necessary to erect a chapel of ease, for the accommodation of those inhabitants who are members of the established church. The ground was given by H. C. Hutchinson, Esq. together with a handsome donation of £500, which, with several other contributions amounting to upwards of £3000, the building is now being erected, in the style of Gothic prevalent in the reign of Henry the eighth, and is likely to be a structure creditable to the establishment.

#### THE HAMLET OF LITTLE GREENLEY.

I find that the proper name of this place is not "Gringley" as generally pronounced, but "Greenley." When Doomsday-book was compiled, it was chiefly belonging to the soke of Danham, and paid the tax for two bovats and a sixth of land. The Archbishop of York also held some land here, which paid the tax for one bovat and a quarter.

It appears that the ancient family of the Norrims possessed the greatest portion of this hamlet, about

the year 1300. On the demise of Henry Nerrays, it became the property of Alen de Boleshoure, who, some time afterwards, conveyed it to his nephew, Henry Nerrays, along with other lands in Stretton (Sturton,) Wyton, Fenton, and Leirton (Leverton,) the said Henry agreeing to pay to the said Allen and his heirs, yearly, a pair of gilt spurs at Whitsuntide for ever. Shortly after this, the estate descended to William de' Anne, a distant relative of the Nerrays, who held it along with the cars and commons of East Retford, the last of which, in 1320, he conveyed to "all the men of Rettforthe," and the former, at his decease, was sold to John Clarke, by John de Hercy, who had succeeded to the estate; from him it descended to his son Bryan, and in 1566, it was claimed by Lionel Sherbrooke, along with lands in Grove, East Retford, and Welham, amounting to 100 acres of land, 100 of meadow, 100 of pasture, 100 of wood, and 100 of furze and heath, together with a garden, an orchard, one toft, and a messuage. Subsequently to this, it was sold, and came into a number of hands, of which a considerable part came to the proprietor of Grove, who is lord of the manor, and holds it at the present day.

Greenley formerly possessed a chapel of ease, and a burial ground; but when it was erected, or even when demolished, no records are extant. Several human bones have been dug up within the last few years, and skulls with teeth as perfect as when first interred. Some years back a stone coffin was found, but whether

the stone which covered it contained any inscription or not, cannot be ascertained. This coffin was taken from its bed and put into a fold yard, and after being thoroughly washed out, was intended to be used as a drinking trough for cattle; but, strange as it may appear! no cattle would touch the water which it contained, although drawn from a well close by; the water of which they drank from other troughs without hesitation. This account I received from several who were eye witnesses of the fact. In consequence of this, the coffin was again deposited in the earth, but the head end may be seen protruding from the side of the chapel hill, at the present time.

The hamlet is situated in a valley on the declivity of a hill, in a romantic and pleasing situation, and the views to the west and north-west are extensive and picturesque. The houses in general are of an humble description, straggling here and there in different directions, having been built as necessity required, or where the situation was thought to be most convenient and agreeable.

THE END.

# INDEX.

---

|                                            | Page    |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| ALDERMEN, names of the, in 1607, .....     | 78      |
| ————— in 1828, .....                       | 90      |
| Alms Houses .....                          | 137     |
| Ancotts, Sir Wharton, monument of .....    | 115     |
| Ancient stone, inscription on an .....     | 98      |
| Annesley, chantry of ... ..                | 130     |
| <br>Babworth, general description of ..... | <br>199 |
| ————— the Hall at... ..                    | 201     |
| ————— the Rectory at ... ..                | ib.     |
| ————— Parish Church at, .....              | 202     |
| ————— Catalogue of the Rectors of .....    | 205     |
| Bailiff, antiquity of the office of ... .. | 76      |
| Bailiffs, list of, from 1760 .. ..         | 78      |
| ————— names of the, in 1607 .....          | ib.     |
| ————— 1828 .....                           | 90      |
| Bank, the ... ..                           | 149     |
| Barnaby, drunken, rhyme of .....           | 153     |
| Bassetlaw, hundred of ... ..               | 1       |
| ————— ancient names of ... ..              | 2       |
| ————— its extent ... ..                    | 3       |
| ————— its latitude, population, &c... ..   | ib.     |
| ————— property in the hundred of .....     | 4       |
| Bells, inscriptions on the ... ..          | 108     |
| Benefactional Tablets ... ..               | 119     |
| Benevolent Societies .....                 | 139     |
| Bleesby, Corporation estate at ... ..      | 131     |

# Index.

|                                                            |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Belham, the hamlet of</b> .....                         | 239 |
| <b>Bowles, Mr. his defeat</b> .....                        | 57  |
| <b>Bridge, the</b> ... ..                                  | 150 |
| <b>Broad Stone, the</b> ... ..                             | ib. |
| <b>Brumby, Mr. Alderman, monument of</b> .....             | 117 |
| <b>Bullivant, Mr. Richard, monument of...</b> .....        | 125 |
| <b>Burgh, William de, grant of</b> .....                   | 18  |
| <br>                                                       |     |
| <b>Cantarists, first, catalogue of</b> .....               | 97  |
| <b>Cantarists, secondary, catalogue of</b> .....           | 98  |
| <b>Cars and Commons, the</b> .....                         | 165 |
| <b>Chantry Communities</b> ... ..                          | 90  |
| <b>Chapel, the Methodist</b> .....                         | 128 |
| <b>Independent Dissenters</b> ... ..                       | 124 |
| <b>Chaplains, confirmation of the appointment of</b> ..... | 19  |
| <b>Chesterfield Canal, the</b> .....                       | 168 |
| <b>Choir, the bishop's, whence its name</b> .....          | 106 |
| <b>Church, the parish, its original endowment</b> .....    | 93  |
| <b>its downfall, in 1651</b> .....                         | 99  |
| <b>its dimensions</b> .....                                | 103 |
| <b>its galleries.</b> .....                                | 105 |
| <b>Clarborough, extracts from Doomeday-book</b> .....      | 232 |
| <b>general description of</b> .....                        | ib. |
| <b>the church at</b> ... ..                                | 235 |
| <b>catalogue of the vicars of</b> .....                    | 238 |
| <b>Clater, Mr. Francis, monument of</b> .....              | 124 |
| <b>Clifton, Sir Gervas, gift of</b> .....                  | 91  |
| <b>Clifton, Mr. John, account of</b> .....                 | 176 |
| <b>Cockahutt, Mary, monument of</b> ... ..                 | 114 |
| <b>Corporate, present body, of Retford</b> ... ..          | 89  |
| <b>Corporations, first establishment of</b> .....          | 25  |
| <br>                                                       |     |
| <b>Denman, Johannes, tombstone of</b> .....                | 111 |
| <b>Denmans, family of the</b> .....                        | 196 |
| <b>Dorcas Charity, the</b> ... ..                          | 138 |
| <b>Edward I. grant of</b> .....                            | 28  |
| <b>III. grant of</b> .....                                 | 29  |

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Edward VI: Free Grammar School of .....             | 126 |
| Election, contested, in 1700 .....                  | 53  |
| ..... 1702 .....                                    | ib. |
| ..... 1705 .....                                    | 54  |
| ..... 1710 .....                                    | 56  |
| ..... 1796 .....                                    | ib. |
| ..... 1802 .....                                    | 57  |
| ..... 1806 .....                                    | 58  |
| ..... 1826 .....                                    | 60  |
| Fairs, the, when held .....                         | 143 |
| Font, the .....                                     | 118 |
| Gaskin, Mr. Thomas; account of .....                | 173 |
| Ginever, Mr. Alderman, monument of .....            | 116 |
| Greenley, Little, hamlet of ... ..                  | 244 |
| Grove, extracts from Domesday-book respecting ..... | 217 |
| ..... general description of .....                  | ib. |
| ..... Castle Hill Wood; in the parish of ...        | 220 |
| ..... the church at .....                           | 223 |
| ..... catalogue of the Rectors of .....             | 226 |
| Ganthorpe; Thomas; agreement of .....               | 20  |
| Helwys, Johannes, tombstone of .....                | 111 |
| Henry III. grant of .... ..                         | 27  |
| ..... VI: confirmation of charters by .....         | 30  |
| ..... VIII. grant of the manor by .....             | 20  |
| ..... grant of lands by .....                       | ib. |
| Hercy, Sir John, grant of .....                     | 22  |
| Holmes, John, Esq. summer reading room of .....     | 169 |
| ..... monument of the children of ...               | 116 |
| Hospital, Sleswick's, account of .....              | 135 |
| Hudson, Mr. John, room and curiosities of ...       | 170 |
| Hundreds, number of, in the county ... ..           | 2   |
| Idle, the river, &c. .... ..                        | 161 |
| James I. charter of .....                           | 31  |



# Index.

|                                                                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Kirke, John, Esq. account of .....                                           | 175 |
| Lane, Jacobi, monument of .....                                              | 112 |
| Lincoln, Earl of, gift of the .....                                          | 91  |
| Lound, Corporation estate at .....                                           | 131 |
| Maces, Corporation .....                                                     | 90  |
| Market, when held .....                                                      | 142 |
| Marshall, Mr. Alderman, monument of .....                                    | 117 |
| Mattersea, priory of, lands belonging to the .....                           | 21  |
| Moorgate, the hamlet of .....                                                | 243 |
| Moretton, the hamlet of .....                                                | 207 |
| Morton, Corporation estate at .....                                          | 131 |
| Morton, Rev. R. monument of ...                                              | 116 |
| Nevile, Sir Edward, the gift of ...                                          | 91  |
| News Room, the ...                                                           | 147 |
| Nonanes Inquisitione, extract from .....                                     | 95  |
| North Road, the ....                                                         | 152 |
| Nottingham, tolls belonging to the bargesses of                              | 29  |
| Oldfield, Mr. observations of ...                                            | 52  |
| Ordsall, general description of .....                                        | 208 |
| —— the church at ...                                                         | 212 |
| —— catalogue of the rectors of ..                                            | 216 |
| Organists, list of the ...                                                   | 105 |
| Parker, John, Esq. monument of .....                                         | 115 |
| Parliament, British, origin of the .....                                     | 30  |
| Post Office, the ...                                                         | 148 |
| Prat, Walter, mansion of .....                                               | 16  |
| Radford, priory of, rent of assize belonging to the                          | 21  |
| Ranby, the hamlet of .....                                                   | 206 |
| Rancliffe, Richard de, gift of, to the prior and<br>convent of Worksop ..... | 17  |
| Representation, state of the .....                                           | 50  |

# Index.

|                                                    |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Representatives, list of, in Parliament .....      | 70  |
| Retford, derivation of the name of .....           | 5   |
| general description of .....                       | 6   |
| situation and extent of .....                      | 7   |
| roads to .....                                     | 7   |
| soils in the neighbourhood of .....                | 9   |
| trade of .....                                     | 10  |
| climate of .....                                   | ib. |
| extracts from Domesday-book respecting .....       | 15  |
| a borough by prescription .....                    | 26  |
| first representation of, in Parliament ...         | 51  |
| Deanry of .....                                    | 155 |
| names of places in the .....                       | ib. |
| names of incumbents in the .....                   | ib. |
| population of 1821 .....                           | ib. |
| Retford, West, general description of .....        | 178 |
| plague at .....                                    | 181 |
| parish church of .....                             | 183 |
| catalogue of the rectors of .....                  | 186 |
| Holy Trinity Hospital at ...                       | 187 |
| Free School at .....                               | 192 |
| Baptists' Meeting House at ...                     | 194 |
| Richard II. grant of .....                         | 17  |
| Rose, William, monument of .....                   | 112 |
| Rowley, Johannes, monument of .....                | 110 |
| Savings' Bank, the .....                           | 168 |
| Schether, John, gift of .....                      | 19  |
| School, the National ....                          | 133 |
| Smith, Johannes; tombstone of .....                | 111 |
| Spittal Hill, the hamlet of .....                  | 243 |
| Square, the; and Market Place .....                | 140 |
| Steward, Lord High .....                           | 89  |
| Learned, (or Recorder) .....                       | ib. |
| Sutton, Robert; Esq. monument of .....             | 114 |
| Terrier, the, oldest belonging to the parish ..... | 101 |

## Index.

|                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Theatre, the ... ..                             | 146 |
| Thrumpton; the hamlet of ... ..                 | 211 |
| Town Hall, the ... ..                           | 143 |
| Tuxford, chantry of ... ..                      | 127 |
| Underwoode; William, grant of ....              | 20  |
| Vicars, of East Retford, catalogue of the ..... | 122 |
| Vykers, John Atte, message and toft of ...      | 16  |
| ..... grant of, to the bailiffs .....           | ib. |
| Walker, William, grant of .....                 | 19  |
| Welch; Mr. Alderman, monument of ... ..         | 117 |
| Welham, the hamlet of ... ..                    | 241 |
| ..... St. John's Well at... ..                  | 242 |
| Wesley, Rev. J. extract from the Journal of the | 123 |
| White; Francis, monument of the wife of .....   | 117 |
| Whitehouses; hamlet of .....                    | 212 |
| Workhouse, the ... ..                           | 149 |
| Wright, Dr. memoir of .....                     | 172 |

## Directions to the Binder.

|                                        |      |
|----------------------------------------|------|
| The Parish Church, to face the title   | page |
| The Font ... ..                        | 118  |
| The Methodist Chapel .....             | 123  |
| The Town Hall .....                    | 143  |
| The Broad Stone & the Corporation Seal | 160  |
| The Ancient Pistol-sword, &c.... ..    | 170  |
| The Oak Sofa ... ..                    | 171  |
| The Iron Chest ... ..                  | 172  |
| West Retford Church ... ..             | 183  |

